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GAY COMICS #25: Spring 1998
edited by Andy Mangels

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EDITOR'S NOTES: HOWARD CRUSE

Today's *Gay Comics* was born *Gay Comix* in 1980, the x in its title signalling its link to a renegade movement. The cartoonists who had been creating "underground comix" since the mid-60s saw themselves as liberators of a popular art form (comic books) that had been too timid, too juvenile, and for too long had been content to be censored.

Straight boys were in the driver's seat at the outset, as so often they are, but in time female cartoonists demanded space on the underground-comix freedom ride. Then the gays climbed on board. In 1976, four years before *Gay Comix* saw the light of day, no less than *three* all-queer comic books had hit the racks: Larry Fuller's *Gay Heartthrobs* (a gay male anthology title); Roberta Gregory's *Dynamite Damsels* and Mary Wings *Come Out Comix*. It was also in 1976 that I allotted half an issue of *Barefootz Funnies* to my first gay story, "Gravy on Gay." And even a straight guy, Garry Trudeau, got drunk enough on gay liberation vapors that year to introduce the first openly gay character in newspaper strip history to readers of *Doonesbury*. Something exciting was in the air.

"Gravy On Gay" fell short of being a forthright declaration of my own gayness, but it helped me test the scary waters. To my relief, three years passed without unpleasant repercussions. Then Denis Kitchen, the founder of Kitchen Sink Press, invited me to publicly complete the process. Denis, a straight man with right-on gender politics, thought it was time to use the comix medium to explore gay life in a less campy, more substantial way than *Gay Heartthrobs* had chosen to do. He planned to call his new title *Gay Comix* and thought I should edit it. I was game.

We envisioned a showcase for those gay male, lesbian, and bisexual cartoonists inclined to look honestly at the diverse ways by which we gay folk make it through our everyday lives - as Mary Wings and Roberta Gregory had done so wryly in their earlier solo books. From the beginning I hoped to involve Mary and Robert themselves; to my delight, the two pioneers; signed on without hesitation.: Then Lee Marrs, whose *Pudge, Girl* trilogy had been a standout underground series of the mid-70s, volunteered to contribute a story, and I knew that our chancy project had a real shot at success.

Since it was unclear, on the whole, exactly who among the world's underground cartoonists were gay, Denis and I did everything but drop leaflets out of helicopters to spread the word about our project. In my widely disseminated prospectus I told would-be contributors that I was more interested in emotional authenticity than flashy cartooning licks. Give me humor and I would love it; give me wonderful art and I'd be in heaven; but I was fully prepared to publish inexpertly rendered stories, with or without laugh lines, if such stories truly sprang from the heart,

Campy posturings and shock effects I could do without, and in an effort to steer potential contributors away from empty titillation I asked for comix "about people, not genitals." I probably overstated my point in this regard, since the first round of submissions avoided overt depictions of sex so conscientiously that the celebratory raunchiness so visible in late-70s, urban gay culture was nowhere to be seen. An underground comic book being no place for primness, I used "Billy Goes Out," my personal contribution to the first issue, to restore sexuality to its proper place as one of the many facets of life worth drawing comic strips about. By doing so I was hoping to reassure contributors to subsequent issues of *Gay Comix* that my desire to move beyond porn was by no means a call for prudery.

Denis and I found ourselves with a popular book on our hands, thanks largely to the enthusiastic embrace of *Gay Comix*, by gay/lesbian bookstores across the nation. Our tentative experiment thus became a series, the twenty-fifth installment of which you're holding in your hands. While its title has undergone an x-change, two other editors have succeeded me at the helm, and a different publisher now writes the checks, the liberationist goals of *Gay Comix* remain.

Howard Cruse is the founding editor of *Gay Comix*. He edited issues #1-4.

Flash forward to 1990, when Jennifer Camper, Burton Clarke, Mark Johnson and I curated an exhibit of lesbian and gay cartoons that was mounted at New York's Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. We were astonished at how many queer cartoonists from across the United States and from other nations answered our call for submissions. Talent had obviously been flowering wildly in the ten years since Denis Kitchen and I wondered exactly how we were going to find enough openly lesbian and gay cartoonists to fill 36 pages.

As Jennifer, Burton, Mark and I sorted through the stacks of drawings that kept arriving at the Center, I remembered how different the world had seemed when I was a teenaged wannabe cartoonist in rural Alabama in the 50s. My apparent task back then had been to draw the kinds of cartoons that a straight man might draw, and to keep any hint of my true nature from being detectable to others.

It took years of personal evolution for me to become ready to cast aside the old rules and be myself on paper. I wonder how much sooner I might have reached that point had *Gay Comix* existed in my youthful universe. I'm grateful that the series has flourished under the guidance of first Robert Triptow and then Andy Mangels, and I like to think that the series is, even now encouraging yet another generation of queer cartoonists — and queer readers of cartoons — to cast aside whatever outdated rules are *still* holding them back from proudly presenting their true selves to the world.

THOSE ROLES KEEP ROLLIN' ON & ON...

From one who knows

©1996 Lee Marrs

I CAN'T STAND IT!
WHACK!
AS A RESULT, FUNDING HAS BEEN CUT BY 58% AND –
WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING THE SAME GODDAM BATTLES FOR DECADES! IT NEVER EVER STOPS!!
THERE'S A REASON IT'S CALLED "A REMOTE"
WE'VE MARCHED AND PICKETED AND VOTED AND CAMPAIGNED AND ORGANIZED AND... I CAN'T DO IT ANY MORE! NO MORE!
GET OUT! THE GULF WAR WAS THE LAST TIME WE HIT THE STREETS, BABE.
OF COURSE IT WAS. MY ARTHRITIS KILLS ME AFTER ONE MILE. YOU FREAK OUT AT MISSING ONE DAY OF WORK... BESIDES – WE'VE PAID OUR DUES.
OH. SAINT JOAN OF BAEZ, HERE WE GO AGAIN...
IT'S THIS GODDAM LATEST GENERATION! SELFISH MATERIALISTIC SLUGS! ALL THEY WANNA DO IS LOOK GOOD OR BUILD A DYNAMITE STOCK PORTFOLIO OR BOTH! IT'S –
DING DONG!
ARE YOU EXPECTING FED EX?
GOOD EVENING. I'M JAMAR TULLEY, HERE TONIGHT FOR THE MIDDLE EASTERN CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE.
I'M COLLECTING NAMES AND FUNDS TO SEND –
YOU WERE SAYING?
HI. I'M GOING DOOR-TO-DOOR ON BEHALF OF THE GAY DEMOCRATIC CLUB.
MY WALLET'S IN MY POLARTEC VEST.
I'LL GET MY CHECKBOOK.
GOOD EVENING. I'M ALICE MINTZ WITH PROCHOICE COALITION.
THANKS AGAIN.
AND THIS ENTITLES YOU TO OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER WITH –
PLEASE! I'LL GIVE YOU FIVE MORE BUCKS TO NOT SEND IT.
I'M NOT SURE THIS IS A PROGRESSION. BABY BOLSHEVIK TO LEFTY BANK...
END

People Who Live in Glass Marriages Shouldn't Throw Stones at Same-Sex Marriage

U.S. Legislators Who Supported the Anti-Gay DOMA Bill

Bob Barr — chief sponsor of DOMA.
Caught licking whipped cream off the chests of 2 women (not his wives). Married 3 times.

Bob Dole — former Senate Majority Leader.
Dumped wife #1 who nursed him through near deadly World War II wounds.

Wes Cooley
Allegedly concealed his wedding date so his new wife could keep collecting her veteran's widow benefits.

Enid Greene
Divorcing husband accused of falsifying her campaign finance reports.

Bob Dornan
The subject of 4 divorce actions from his wife claiming spousal abuse.

Newt Gingrich — House Speaker
Visited his dying first wife in the hospital to say he was leaving her. Also admits to adulterous affairs in the back seats of cars.

And they claim same-sex marriage would destroy their marriages!

© 1996, Demian http://www.eskimo.com/~demian/partners.html

BITCHY BUTCH in "PEE-CEE"

BY: Roberta Gregory - Big thanks to LIZ L.

We're talkin' CUTTING EDGE here... none o' this..... POLITICALLY CORRECT crap!
COO... WOW!
I remember when people WANTED to be "Politically Correct"..
DYKE
But, YOU know how POLITICALLY CORRECT SHE is...
TELL me...
If I hear those words ONE MORE TIME... I-I'll... ...I-I'll...
DYKE
blah blah blah blah Politically correct blah blah blah blah
SN... AP!
DYKE
GNAARGHHHH
Well, since this is GAY COMICS, I DON'T think we're entitled to the same level of VIOLENCE allowed in those "Adolescent Specialty Market" products on SPINNER RACKS at the Super CONVENIENCE STORE... ...SORRY!
EEEEK!
RIP!
STOMP STOMP
AARGH!
Right NOW, "Butchy" may not be totally in TOUCH with her REASON for reacting VIOLENTLY to the overuse of the phrase "Politically Correct" in a pejorative sense...
I remember it being used by feminists (YOU know... the 'F-word') back in the early 70's as a rather tongue-in-cheek way to refer to "progressive" (remember THAT concept?) politics!
Hey, I'm SURE there's a Politically Correct solution to this dilemma...
SOME of you "over-thirtys" out there probably even used it in its ORIGINAL SENSE... and MEANT it! Don't WORRY... your dirty little secret will DIE with you!
Think the dress is too... P-I-?
*Politically INcorrect, kids!
Its NEGATIVE sense dates from the BUSH (remember HIM?) administration attacking the idea of an ETHNIC STUDIES requirement for College graduates!
The... VERY IDEA!
Nothin' like a good SHOVE From the RIGHT to turn that ol' consensus RIGHT AROUND!
Whaddya MEAN this isn't Funny?! Don't tell me YOU'RE... "PC"!
Roberta Gregory ©96

I've Got a Secret!
Nobody ever asked us!!
by
Kurt Erichsen
Who decided gay couples should get married, anyway? Ralph and I have been together 27 years. We've never needed a marriage license!
Yeah, did our Gay Community leaders think this through? It means coming out every day in every way!
There's the matter of the fourth finger of my left hand...
FOR 27 YEARS I HAVEN'T WORN A WEDDING RING.
I CAN JUST HEAR MY SISTER NOW...
What a nice wedding band! But when did you get married?
But why didn't invite me to the wedding?
And what's her name?
Ralph.
Think what it'll do to "Why Aren't You Married?" at the office!
BEFORE...
Oh, I dunno, Mr. Carswell. I haven't met the right girl yet. Maybe I'm just not the marrying type.
AFTER...
Mr. Carswell, I'd like you to meet Marq. He fucks me up the ass four times a week.
It'll get us on computer databases. We'll be on Government lists of married couples
Every Tele-Marketer will know which lubricant we use.
AND THE RADICAL RIGHT WILL LINE UP A NATIONAL LIST OF REGISTERED QUEERS.
Ha!! I've got you now, faggot!!
GLUMPHMKK!!
I've been selectively out of the closet since I was 15. I'm used to persecution.
It's a plot. They're trying to rob us of our paranoia.
©%
The End!

LITTLE HOWIE IN SLUMBERLAND

CARTOONIST HOWARD CRUSE BUMPS INTO AN OLD PAL AT A PARTY...
WENDEL!
I HAVEN'T LAID EYES ON YOU IN AGES! EVERYBODY'S ALWAYS ASKIN' ME WHAT YOU'RE UP TO THESE DAYS. TELL ME ALL THE NEWS.
©1996 by H. Cruse
GEE, COULDJA RUN THAT BY ME AGAIN? ALL THAT PARTY MUSIC IS REALLY DOIN' A NUMBER ON MY EARDRUMS! Heh heh! SO ANYWAY...IS OLLIE HERE WITH YOU? HOW'S FARLEY GETTIN' ALONG? AN' HOW ABOUT STERNO?...AN' DEB AN' TINA AN'...
DAMMIT, THE PARTY NOISE IS DROWNIN' YA RIGHT OUT! I WOULDN'T KEEP MAKIN' YA REPEAT YOURSELF, Y'SEE, EXCEPT THAT YER OLD FANS'LL GO NUTS IF THEY HEAR I RAN INTO YOU AN' DIDN'T GET FILLED IN ON ALL YOUR RECENT ADVENTURES....
WHUZZAT??
HUH? SAY IT AGAIN?
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT 'PROTEASE INHIBITORS' ??
AARGH! THIS MUSIC IS DEAFENING!
AND WHY ARE YOU JUMPING AROUND AND FLAPPING YOUR ARMS LIKE THAT?
WENDEL, I CAN'T HEAR A WORD THAT YOU'RE SAYING!!
Dale a tu cuerpo alegría Macarena... Eh-h-h-h-h Macarena!...
moan!
THAT'S JUST ABOUT THE MOST FRUSTRATING KIND OF DREAM IN THE WORLD!
OOPS! DID I LEAVE THE RADIO PLAYING AGAIN WHEN WE WENT TO SLEEP, HOWIE? YOU HATE THAT, DONCHA!
CRUSE

COME OUT COMIX

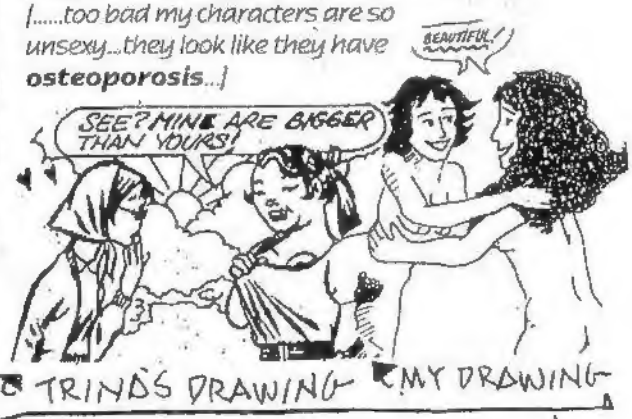
years ago.

The year was 1973. *I was a* ***sculpture major in art school.*** *The anti war movement had led me to feminism, and feminism- the concept- led me to lesbianism, the practice. It was a lot less theoretical than it sounds. One day, tired from a night of leafletting and tribadism, thumbing through a Women's Comix I came upon. Trina Robbin's story* ***'Sandy Comes Out.'*** *I remember feeling* ***alienated*** *and* ***angry...***

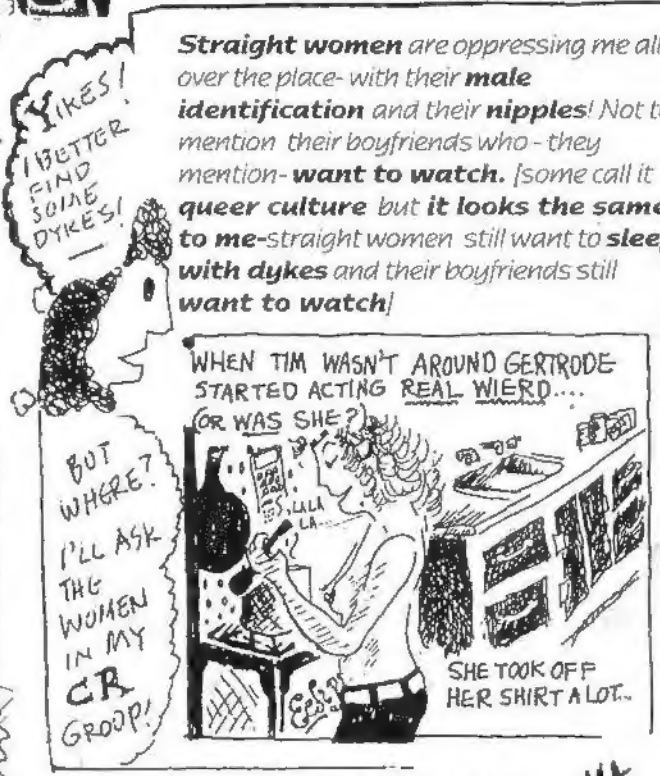
Last week I called up Trina and asked her to FAX me a copy of ***Sandy Comes Out.'*** *and I remember what I thought was missing in* ***Sandy Comes Out.***

What about ***struggle, oppression*** *and the* ***patriarchy?*** *[****Dig*** *it, girls, we still live in a* ***patriarchy****].*

How can Trina make fun of this intrinsically ***poignant*** *and* ***metaphysical*** *moment? [.....too bad my characters are so unsexy...they look like they have* ***osteoporosis****...]*



Straight women *are oppressing me all over the place- with their* ***male identification*** *and their* ***nipples****! Not to mention their boyfriends who - they mention-* ***want to watch.*** *[some call it* ***queer culture*** *but* ***it looks the same to me-****straight women still want to* ***sleep with dykes*** *and their boyfriends still* ***want to watch****]*

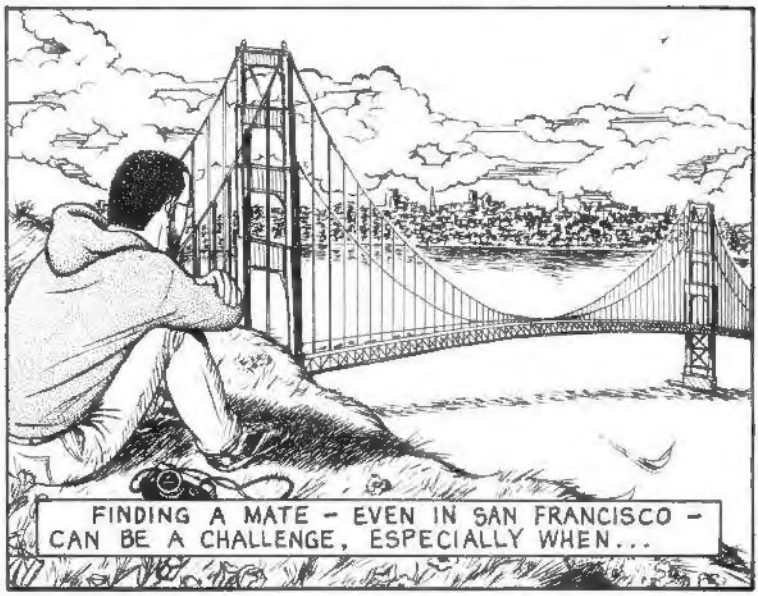

YIKES! I BETTER FIND SOME DYKES!
WHEN TIM WASN'T AROUND GERTRODE STARTED ACTING REAL WIERD....
OR WAS SHE?
BUT WHERE? I'LL ASK THE WOMEN IN MY C.R. GROUP!
SHE TOOK OFF HER SHIRT A LOT..

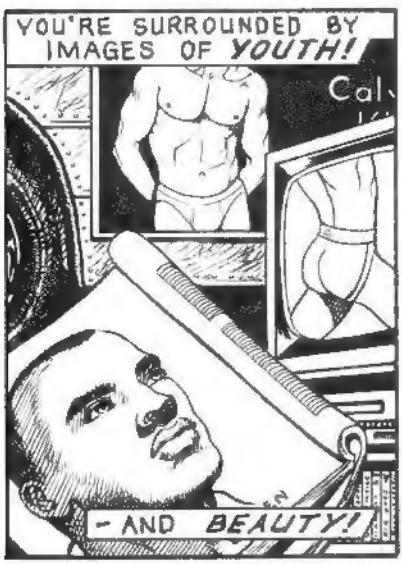
and I'll write COME OUT COMIX and tell it like it is.

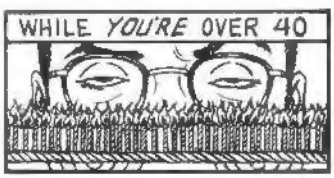
[PS. IT'S BEEN GREAT!!!]

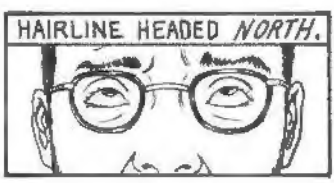
Someday My Prints Will Come

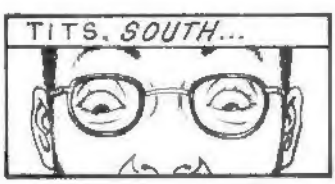
by Burton Clarke

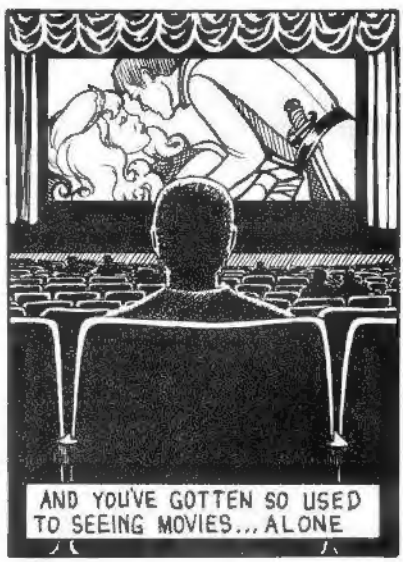


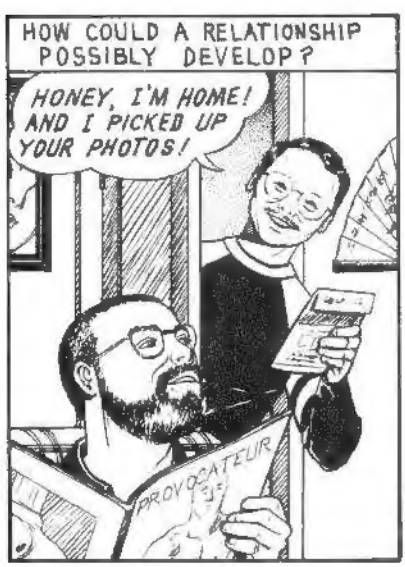












CAMPER ©96 A LETTER TO HETEROSEXUALS

HOMOSEXUALS ARE JUST LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE, REALLY

THEY HAVE JOBS AND SPEND LOTS OF MONEY FROM THEIR DOUBLE INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

THEY WANT TO JOIN THE MILITARY AND DEFEND THEIR COUNTRY.

THEY WANT TO GET MARRIED AND RAISE FAMILIES...

. AND LIVE IN THE SUBURBS AND VOTE REPUBLICAN AND BE A PART OF THE GREAT AMERICAN DREAM

EXCUSE ME, WHO HIRED THESE TWO? GET THEM OUT OF HERE! **THEY'RE MAKING US LOOK BAD!**

MARRIED? DOES THAT MEAN I CAN'T FUCK OTHER WOMEN?
I AIN'T RAISING NO GODDAM KIDS, NO WAY!
C'MON...LET'S GO HIT THAT GAS STATION
FORGET THE GAS STATION, BABY! LET'S FUCK!

AHEM! HETEROSEXUALS! PLEASE IGNORE THESE TWO **DISGUSTING LADIES!** THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH US **NICE HOMOSEXUALS!**

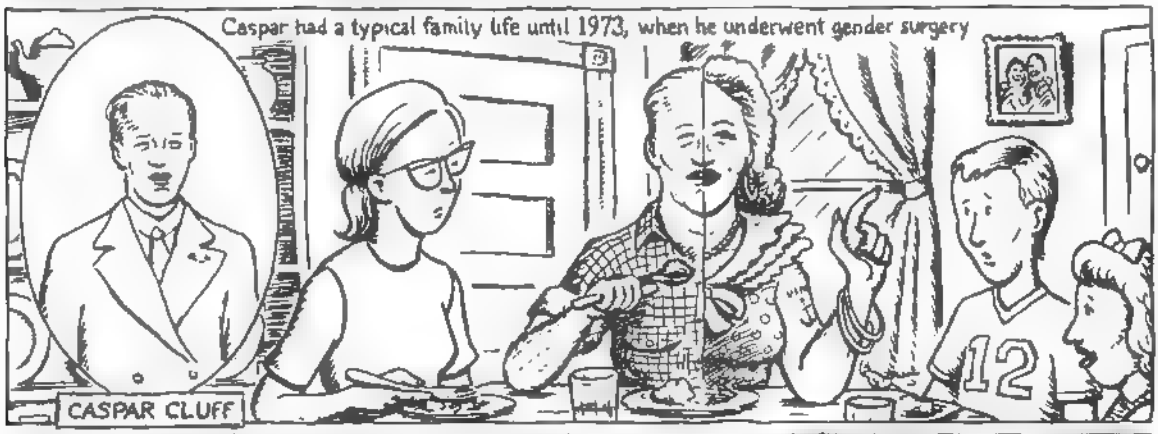
PLEASE.. STRAIGHT PEOPLE **PLEASE** DON'T LOOK. SOB **DON'T HATE ME! I'LL BE GOOD! JUST TOSS ME A FEW CRUMBS!..PLEASE?**

DAMMIT! YOU TWO HAVE RUINED **EVERYTHING!** NOW **HETEROSEXUALS** WILL BE ANGRY WITH US! NOW THEY'LL **NEVER** LET US BE EQUAL!

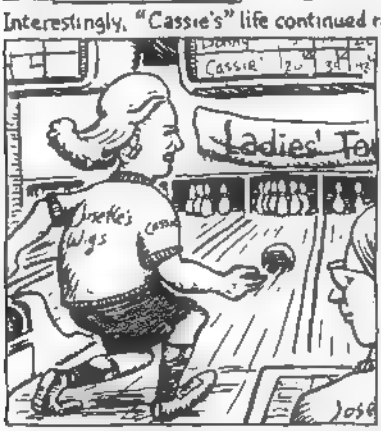
I CAME OUT TO MY PARENTS, SERENA! AND THEY LOVE AND ACCEPT ME!
THAT'S WHAT FAMILY IS ABOUT, G.DDY!
WHAT DID YOUR MOTHER SAY WHEN YOU CAME OUT, ASHLEY?
"OH NO. SOMEBODY-KILL-ME-I-HAVE-NO-SON!"
.. BUT SHE STILL CALLS EVERY DAY TO BE BE SURE I'M EATING MY VEGETABLES!
SEE! FAMILIES ARE SO BEAUTIFUL!
I LOVE THESE OLD JOAN CRAWFORD MOVIES! SHE'S TOTALLY SELFLESS!
LOOK AT THAT PERFECT HAIR! ....THOSE EYEBROWS.... THOSE SHOULDERS!
JOAN CRAWFORD IS EVERYTHING I WANT IN A MAN!
LORD ALFRED! SUPPERTIME! LORD ALFRED!
DON'T LOOK AT ME THAT WAY! I DIDN'T GIVE YOU THAT NAME!
I'M SURE YOU'D RATHER BE KNOWN AS BUTCH!
....WHO WOULDN'T?
THAT WAS A GREAT DINNER, ASHLEY!
THANKS! IT WAS GIDEON'S RECIPE!
THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL APARTMENT!
SERENA DID THE DECORATING!
ARE YOU EVER INTIMIDATED BY YOUR TALENTED HOUSEMATES?
YES (SIGH) BUT I'VE LEARNED TO BE CONTENT WITH BEING THE CUTE ONE!

THRILLING REALITIES

©1996 Robert Triptow



Interestingly, "Cassie's" life continued relatively unchanged.

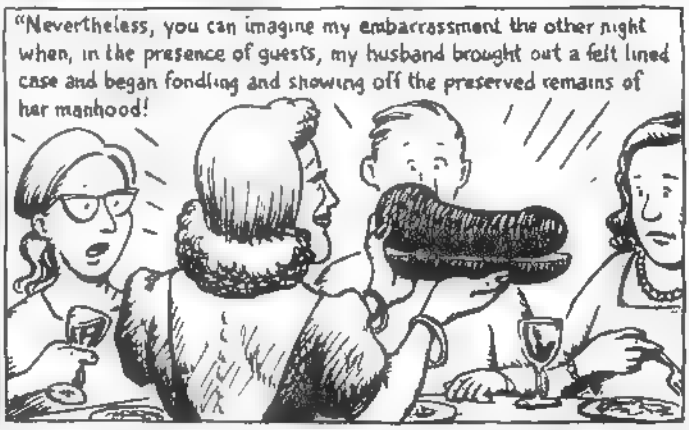


. except for an item in the newspaper..

"Dear Ann Slander,

"Some time ago my husband announced he was 'a woman inside' and had a sex change operation. Although we were put off at first, the children and I have adjusted and now feel we love her *almost* as much as we loved him.

"Nevertheless, you can imagine my embarrassment the other night when, in the presence of guests, my husband brought out a felt lined case and began fondling and showing off the preserved remains of her manhood!



"Ann, I love my husband and want to stay with her, but how can I keep her from playing with himself?

"–Better Half"

SEE MORE THRILLING REALITIES AT HTTP://WWW.SKYHOUSE.ORG/ROBERT/CARTOON1.HTM

THEN IT BEGAN GENTLY TO RAIN...

DROUGHT
FOR FIFTEEN YEARS DROUGHT DRYS THE LAND, BLEEDING AWAY COLOR. THE VOICES OF THOSE WHO HERED BEFORE THEIR TIME BLUR INTO A BACKGROUND MURMER SOMETIMES YOU ONLY REMEMBER A LAUGH, A GESTURE, OR A SCENT OF SOMEPLACE BEFORE.

HOT HAZE HOWLS PAST PARCHED STREETS, STONE HIGHRISES HOLD TIGHT THE STICK OF HEAT TELEVISION LIGHTS FLICKER BLUE LIGHT DURING SLEEPLESS NIGHTS, SOME BLUE LIGHTS DANCE IN TANGENT, WHILE OTHERS FLASH OUT OF SYNC...

IMAGINE THE STREET AS IT MIGHT OF BEEN HAD ALL THE ARTISTS AND LOVERS HAD LIVED, HAD JUST BEEN ABLE TO HOLD ON A LITTLE BIT LONGER

ONE DAWN THE TRIBAL STORIES SUBTLY STARTED TO SHIFT: A PROMISE OF POTENTIALS OUT OF A FIELD OF DEATH PEOPLE BEGAN SAYING "I COULD PLAN A CAREER AGAIN. I COULD HOPE FOR A FUTURE..."

ONE DAWN A HINT OF RAIN SCENTED THE AIR. A LOW DISTANT RUMBLE... THUNDER?

AIDS CURE

Protease Inhibitors Reducing Viral L.
New Hope With Combination Therapies

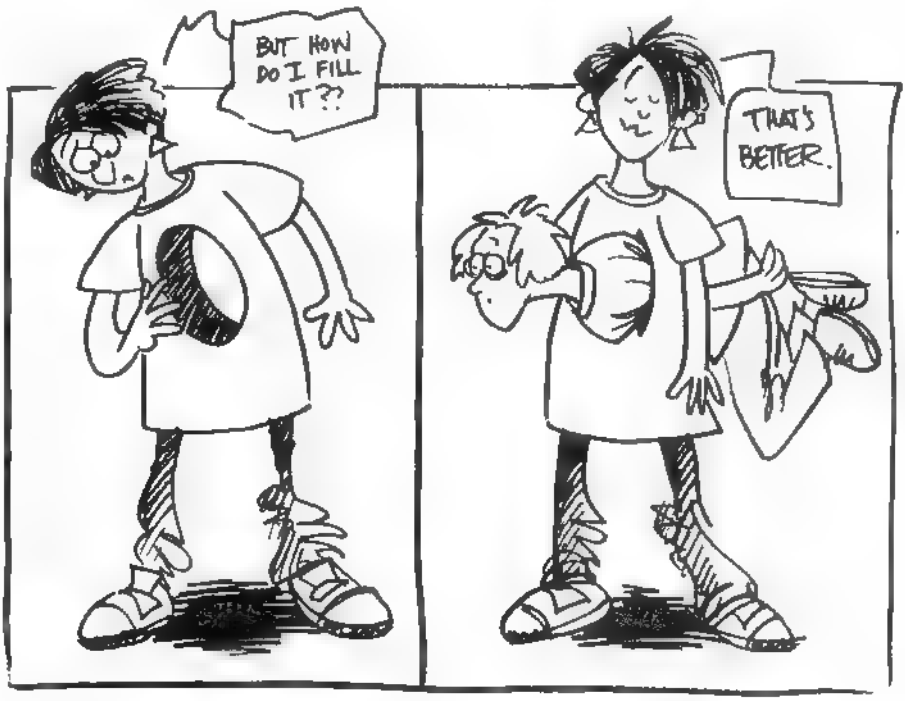
THEN IT BEGAN GENTLY TO RAIN

POPPERS
BY J. Mills
YOW!
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOT FUNNY!
OH, CALM DOWN! IT'S PROBABLY JUST THE SUN'S REACTION, OR SOMETHING!
Y'THINK SO?
SURE! NOW LET'S HURRY! THE NIGHT'S NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER!
BOY, TH' JOINT'S JUMPIN' TONIGHT!
HI! WANNA' DANCE?
WHO, ME? WELL ER—
GO FOR IT! HE'S CUTE!
I'LL CHECK WITH YOU LATER!
NO OFFENSE BUT YOU LOOK PRETTY YOUNG FOR THIS PLACE!
I'M NINETEEN! BUT DON'T TELL THE DOORMAN! I USED A FAKE I.D. TO GET IN! (GIGGLE!)
Mmm Y'KNOW YOU DADDY TYPES REALLY TURN ME ON!
D-DADDY TYPES?!
HEY THE SONG'S NOT OVER YET!
SORRY! I THINK DADDY'S ARTHRITIS IS ACTING UP!
(SIGH, BROTHER I DOUBT ANYONE CAN BE AS DEPRESSED AS I AM RIGHT NOW!
SOB!
SAY, ARE YOU OKAY, FELLA? ANYTHING WRONG?
SNURF! IT'S JUST THE END OF THE WORLD THAT'S ALL! SOB!
WHY?
TODAY'S MY 21ST BIRTHDAY!! I'M NOT A CHICKEN ANYMORE!! I'M =SOB= OVER THE HILL!! =BAWL!!=
HI! I'M FEELING MUCH BETTER NOW! WANNA' FINISH THAT DANCE?

PHIL 'N' ROCK FUNNIES
WHO ELSE DID YOU WANT ME TO E-MAIL FOR YOUR MEETING, PHIL?
© RICK CAMPBELL, 1998
DMACK, YNG-GUY, RICKTX, RIBO, WVDUDE, UPSHOOTER, THUFF, DJ DAVE, CAJUNBOY, PUGSLEY, ATGABOYE, AKAFUN, BRACESBOY, VHAKIRA, NEI4A69, JIZWHIZ ...
NEI4A69 ... JIZ ... ??? WAITAMINNIT!
THIS SOUNDS LIKE ONE OF YOUR WILD SEX PARTIES! I TOLD YOU I WOULDN'T HELP YOU UNLESS IT WAS FOR A WORTHY CAUSE!
WHAT'S THIS MEETING FOR, THEN?
BUT IT IS! IT IS!
WE'RE MEETING TO PLUG THE HOLE IN THE OZONE!
YOU? INTERESTED IN THE ENVIRONMENT? JEEZ, I APOLOGIZE ...
'SCUSE ... GOTTA CHANGE BEFORE THE MEETING!
... I THOUGHT THIS WAS ANOTHER OF YOUR CRAZY ORGY STUNTS!
OZONE
VISIT #GAYGIFS ON DALNET JUST TYPE /JOIN #GAYGIFS
HEH HEH!
THE END

Relationships...

The Commitment Ceremony...



©Jackie Urbanovic 1996

EDITOR'S NOTES: ROBERT TRIPTOW

What Howard said me, too That pretty well sums up my approach as the second editor of *Gay Comix* I felt no one could improve upon the comic book I inherited from Howard Cruse.

If there was a difference in editorial attitude, it was only that I wanted to stress humor "Nobody's ever won an argument in the history of the human race," I reasoned, "so let's seduce 'em with jokes Our readers are gay-friendly already and will recognize and laugh at themselves." So we had Leonard & Larry, Swishy Fishy, the Sparkle Spinsters, and Jayson & Arena. Queer life itself was silly enough and ripe for satire. so we had Wee-Wee's Gayhouse, Castro the Dog, Fruitboy, visits from the "Poppers" gang, and the work of Jennifer Camper, Donelan, and Vaughn. And there was still room for social issues and real-life drama: "Lavender Booties," Danny Dove, and all the work of Roberta Gregory and Alison Bechdel and Burton Clarke and the many others who felt the urge to comment on and illustrate and share their lives

Gay Comix cost and enriched me as an individual. The greatest reward by far was finding good friends in the comics world, introducing some great artists, and becoming a little bit better of a cartoonist myself. (I went in with a bunch of cheap-shot jokes and had to quickly become more responsible and creative.) Plus it was a relief to be involved in gay publishing that didn't focus relentlessly on sex, politics, sex, showbiz, and sex. It also led to my co-editing *Strip AIDS U.S.A.* at a time in the hopeless '80s when my friends were dying around me. That made my world a little less bleak, anyway

Well, I don't have too much interest in editorials in comic books and nothing else to say (now <u>that's</u> news), so I think I'll just turn the rest of this space over to my personal favorite columnist.. the one and only Danny Dove (from *Gay Comix* #13).

TOOOOOODLES, everyone! I'm so ecstatic to be among all of you again it merely to give this sad rag a much-needed transfusion of trans-glamour! As the lipsticked-and-coiffed soul of all things properly and flamboyantly frilly, it is my colorful duty to rescue all of you dear, dear readers from a life of tedious monochrome about dull and dreary lifestyles! Darlings I simply have a life, and a fabulous one it is, too!

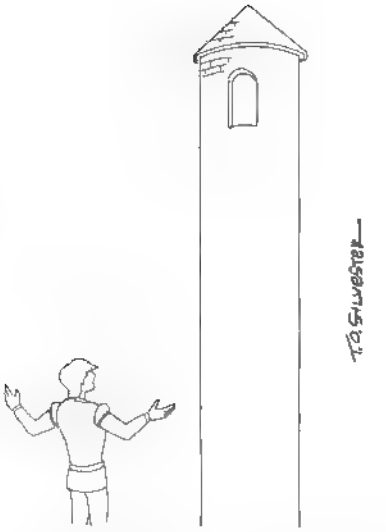
Anyone au courant will kiss that the smartest thing that Trip-teau person ever did was to feature my humble but stirring columns in her comical magazine. I mean, the poor dear has never even worn makeup or a dress in her life. What could she possibly know about anything? Compared to moi, she's barely what you'd call "gay"! I hate to spread rumors but

[The rest of Danny Dove's 73-page editorial has been mercifully omitted]

Robert Triptow edited *Gay Comix* #5 through 13

Real Fairy Tales
by T.O. Sylvester

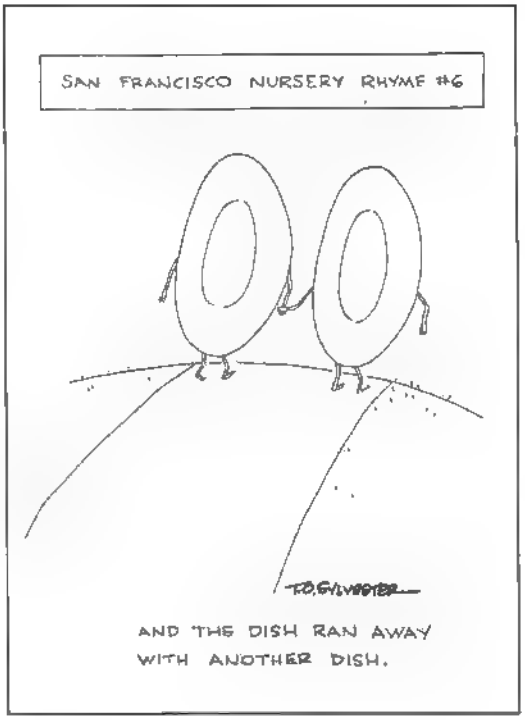
© 1996 T.O. Sylvester



Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your brother.

. . .and someone's been wearing MY nipple ring.

. . .or I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll. . .
say, didn't I see you guys at Wigstock last year?



AND THE DISH RAN AWAY
WITH ANOTHER DISH.

Hans Christian Andersen is inspired by his walks through the streets of Odense.

THOSE GOOD OLD DAYS

by michael Jay GOLDBERG © 1996

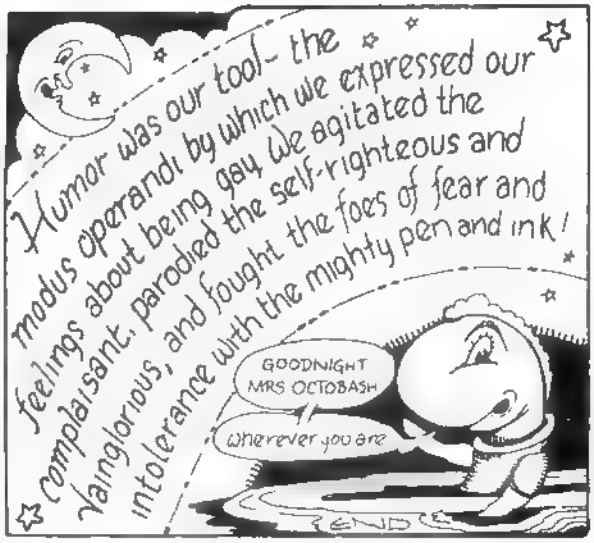
I remember the early days of GAY COMIX (we spelled it with an "X" back then). I especially remember my fellow cartoonists and the great times we had together.

BUBBLES
What a clown!
Louisa May ALLCAT
"STINKY" (we still loved him!)
that fish character (whats his name?)
THAT'S SO SHY FISHY, PAL
And yours truly. What a group!!

Back then you could draw almost anything—no "PC" guidelines. If your comix offended someone, you could escape to CARTOONLAND where cartoonists are Kings!!

We often used (and misused) the LAUGH-O-SCOPE, which let us peek into the future for new ideas.

Humor was our tool- the modus operandi by which we expressed our feelings about being gay. We agitated the complaisant, parodied the self-righteous and vainglorious, and fought the foes of fear and intolerance with the mighty pen and ink!



GAWWD, SIX MORE YEARS TO THE BIG FIVE-O — THERE'S NO STOPPING IT! IT JUST KEEPS ON COMING, ONE DAY AT A TIME AND LOOK AT THE AFTERMATH: I'M FAT I'M SOOO FAT! DAMN YOU "MIDDLE AGE SPREAD"!
OH YEAH? AND WHAT ABOUT ALL THOSE PEPPERONI 'N' SAUSAGE PIZZA LUNCHES THAT I'M TOLD MR. ABOUT? THE HOT FUDGE SUNDAE DESSERTS AND BEAR CLAW COFFEE BREAKS DOWN AT THE LEATHER SHOP?
YA KNOW, MY MEMORY JUST ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE.
"...EVERYONE AGES, A RARE ILLUSTRATIVE FEAT THAT HAS BEEN CARRIED OFF SUCCESS FULLY BY THE NEWSPAPER STRIP GASOLINE ALLEY AND FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE... ALTHOUGH I'M SURE THAT EDWARD AND LARRY THEMSELVES MIGHT PREFER TO BE IN ONE OF THOSE CARTOON WORLDS WHERE NO ONE GETS ANY OLDER".
ROBERT TRIPTOW
FORMER AMIA EDITOR
I THINK THAT WOULD BE FUNNY IF HE WERE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINTH BIRTHDAY FOR THE SEVENTEENTH TIME
YEAH BUT THE SCARY PART IS I'LL BE NO BETTER AT FIFTY-THREE!
FRANK, UNTIE ME THIS INSTANT! AND BE CAREFUL! I HAVE TO PLAY W. TH THE PHILHARMONIC AT THE BOWL FRIDAY NIGHT.
TIM ELDRED 1996
I'M GOING AS FAST AND AS CAREFULLY AS I CAN; IS IT MY FAULT THAT MY EYES DON'T FOCUS AS QUICKLY AS THEY USED TO ?!
GRAY, GRAY, GRAY!... NOTHING BUT GRAY ANYMORE.
AND IT KEEPS GETTIN' SPARSE BACK HERE, TOO.
GEE, THANKS MR. "JUST FOR MEN" BIG TV STAR.
...BUT IT HAS ALL THE RIGHT BELLS 'N' WHISTLES, CD ROM DRIVE, PLATINUM PROCESSOR AND ITS ON SALE!
NOW YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE A BUDGET TO STICK TO OF COURSE, THINGS'LL GET A LITTLE BETTER IN A COUPLE OF YEARS; WE'LL BOTH TURN TWENTY FIVE AND OUR CAR INSURANCE WILL GO DOWN.
I CAN'T WAIT!

Richard Valley & John E. Payne

Before . . .
SELF-CONSCIOUS!

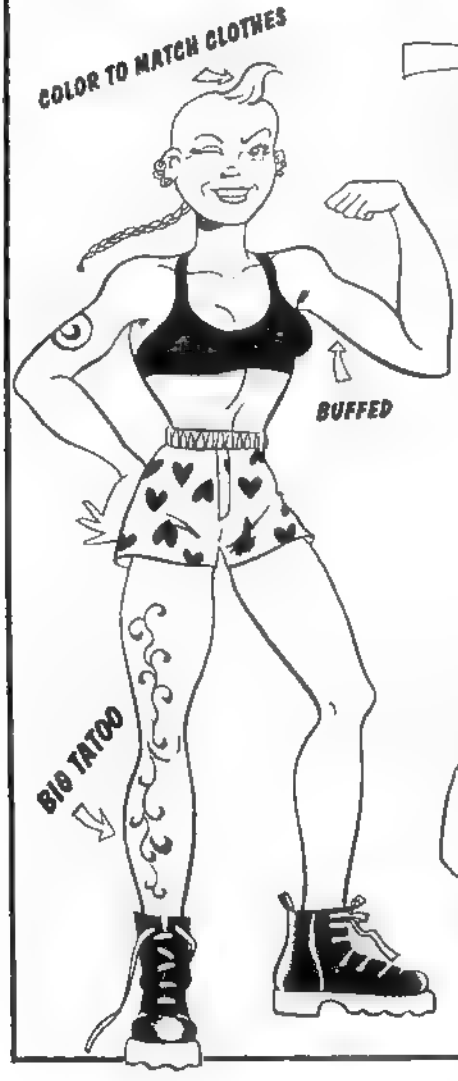
Now . . .
SELF-CONFIDENT!

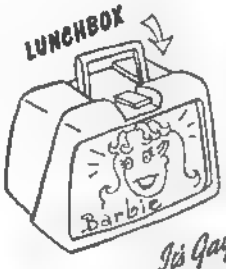
Girls!
BE GLAMOROUS,

BE A LESBIAN - OR JUST DRESS LIKE ONE!

In 7 Short Weeks—

new loveliness, new confidence in your charm!





It's Gay!
It's Smart!
It's Different!

M.DYKE CRISIS
WHY YOU WILL NEVER SEE ME IN A LESBIAN SEX CLUB.
HEY!?! LESLIE! LESLIE EWING WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE MARRIED!
MARRIED!?! DID YOU Lie TO ME?!!?
HEY! Didn't you say your girlfriend's name was "LESLIE?"
Oh my God.
Leslie Ewing

Doing their bit for coalition Politics in the '90's role models Phyllis and Del hit the Club circuit...

FOUR FAVORITES
LESLIE EWING

M.DYKE CRISIS
So the Supreme Court said it's legal to discriminate against us. RIGHT??
Yeah Except that we can't enter into Holy Matrimony

AFTER LAST YEAR'S FIASCO, TRISH MADE SURE SHE BROUGHT PROPER ATTIRE TO THE DINAH SHORE...

Jayson™
Jeffrey A. Krell
I JUST LOVE COMING HERE. ISN'T THIS A GREAT BAR?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU GUYS, BUT I'M SURROUNDED BY STRAIGHT PEOPLE ALL WEEK.
SO I REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO SPENDING A FEW HOURS HERE.
... WHERE I CAN BE SNUBBED BY MY OWN KIND.
KRELL

BLIP...
WE'VE FIGURED OUT THE BAT'S ECHOLOCATION SYSTEM...
...AND THE INTRICACIES OF THE DOLPHIN'S SONAR... BUT I DON'T THINK SCIENCE WILL EVER UNDERSTAND...
..GAYDAR.
DONELAN '96

MIDWAY
©1996 JEFF JACKLIN
WHEW! NO WONDER THEY CALL THAT RIDE THE ELIMINATOR!
HAHA HAHA... YOU SHOULDA SEEN YOUR FACE, CARL! IT WAS GREAT!
IT'S GOOD TO HEAR YOU LAUGH. YOU WERE SO RESERVED WHEN WE FIRST MET...
TICKETS
POWER GYM
STORY + ART JEFF JACKLIN LETTERING: THE "BECK"
YEAH, WELL, BEING WITH YOU OPENED ME UP A LOT! SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A KID AGAIN! I FEEL REALLY FREE...
OH? HOW FREE?
TRY YOUR LUCK
3 PITCHES $2
ENOUGH TO DO THIS..!
JOHN! MMM...
WOW! IN PUBLIC, AND AT THE STATE FAIR, YET!
NO ONE SAW.
LOOK AT THEM. I'D LOVE TO HOLD HANDS LIKE THAT WITH YOU, HON.
C'MON! YOU GOT THE GUTS TO KISS ME IN PUBLIC!
HERE? FOR REAL?!
OKAY. I MEAN, WHO'S GONNA MESS WITH US?
OKAY... HERE GOES...

He knew what people called him:
"Tina" "Binkley" "Pupcakes"

But in the next 24 hours, he's going to change all that....

He's BIG.

He's BLACK.

He's MAD AS HELL.

HE'S...

STUBBY WITH a MOHAWK

"You'll never call him Tina again!"

by Peter Keane
©1998 Robert Triptow

CASTRO COMICS

I CALLED TO THANK YOU FOR THAT PENIS ENLARGING CREME YOU SENT.
IT'S WONDERFUL. I SMEARED IT ALL OVER AND IT WORKS! I'M TRANSFORMED.
YES, IT'S TRUE
TOO BAD HE FORGOT TO WEAR GLOVES!

YOU'RE THE FIRST BANKER I EVER SLEPT WITH!
AMAZING! WHAT MADE YOU GUESS I WAS A BANKER?
WHEN YOU MENTIONED PENALTIES FOR EARLY WITHDRAWAL

CASTRO, WE CAN EXPLORE THE DESERT, THE SEASHORE...
WE MAY EVEN VENTURE WHERE NO MAN HAS DARED TO GO BEFORE
THE LADIES ROOM AT SAKS?

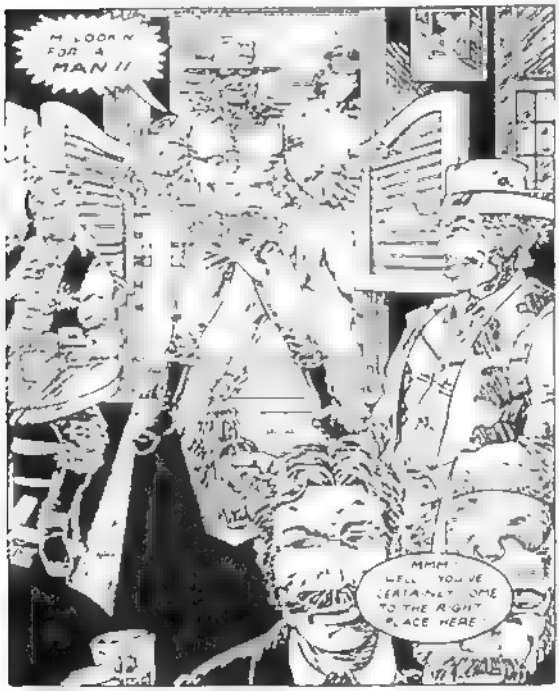
overexposed

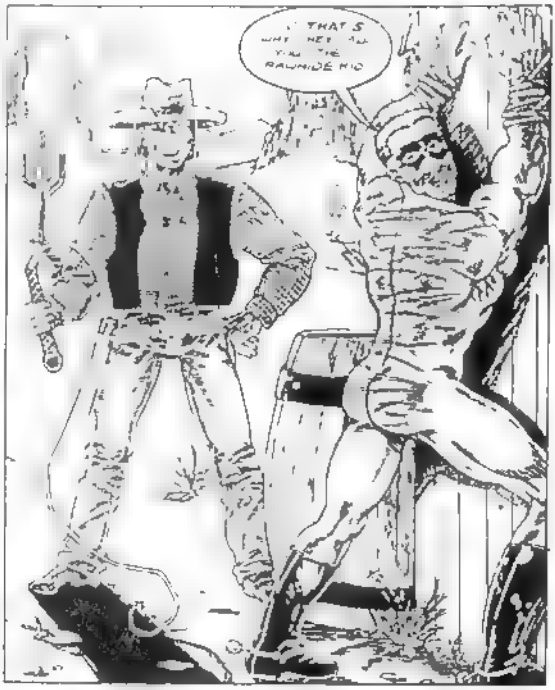
© 1993 BY ALISON BECHDEL

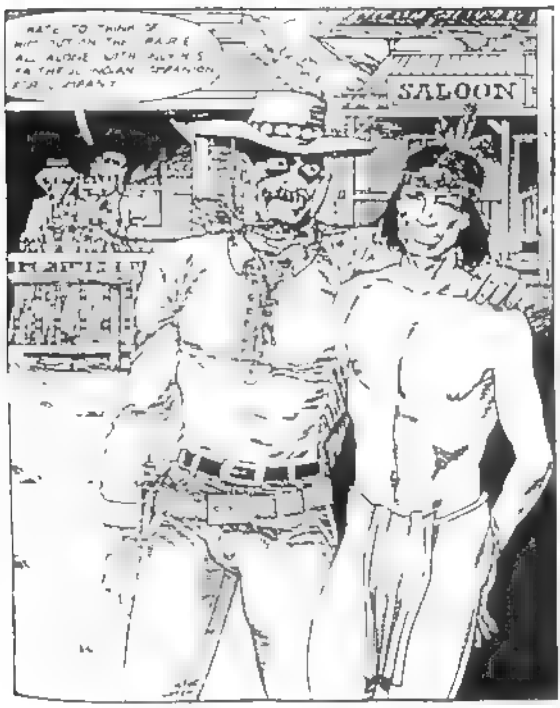
WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR CHILD IS GAY?
shoot him
BURNING ITCHING
THE SUN
I WAS A WAY ALIEN'S LOVE SLAVE!
MORNING
HEY, CELESTE. DIDJA CHECK OUT THE OP-ED PAGE TODAY? THIS JERK SAYS THE ARMED FORCES WOULD BECOME "IMPOTENT" IF THE BAN ON GAYS IN THE MILITARY IS LIFTED.
OH, AND CELESTE! I HAVE A CLIPPING FOR YOU FROM THE LADIES' HOME READER! IT'S ON THE LESBIAN BABY BOOM.
I DON'T SEE WHY THEY SHOULDN'T LET 'EM IN THE ARMY. I MEAN, SO LONG AS THEY HAVE SEPARATE LATRINES AND ALL.
ARE YOU AND TERESA GOING TO HAVE A BABY? I THINK TWO MOTHERS ARE JUST FINE. WILL YOU USE FRESH OR FROZEN SPERM?
YO, PETE! CHECK OUT THE LEZZIES. LIKE IN THOSE MAGAZINES OF YOUR DAD'S.
HEY! LEZBE FRIENDS!
METALLICA
Christian Family Values Alli
LOCAL CHAPTER GRAND OPENING
NO SPECIAL RIGHTS FOR HOMO-SEXUALS
ROUGH DAY, SWEETHEART?
YEAH. I JUST NEED TO ZONE OUT IN FRONT OF THE TV FOR A WHILE.
WHAT'S WRONG, GEORGE?
JERRY, I JUST FOUND OUT MY EX-GIRLFRIEND IS A LESBIAN!
HA HA HA HA HA!
Y'KNOW, I SUPPOSE THIS IS PROGRESS, BUT I REALLY MISS BEING INVISIBLE.
CHEER UP, BABE. WE'RE NOT ON LOVE CONNECTION YET.

CLONE RANGER

BY HOWARD STANGROOM AND STEPHEN LOWTHER.





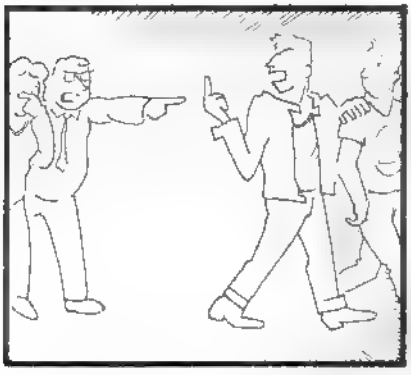


Bar Nothing
AH WELL ANOTHER SATURDAY NIGHT
COME TO THE Bar Nothing
AND THERE'S NOTHING WORTH TAKING HOME BETTER HEAD ON BACK, I GUESS.
STORY HOWARD STANGROOM
ART : STEPHEN LOWTHER
WHOA!
HOW D I MISS THAT OVER THERE AT THE OTHER BAR?
BEER
WHAT AN ANIMAL! TATTOOS, CHAINS, SCARS, THE ROUGH TRADE OF MY WILDEST DREAMS!!
I'LL JUST SIDLE OVER AND OFFER HIM MY.
HUNK
OOPS!
ON SECOND THOUGHT.. MAYBE IT WOULDN'T BE POLITE TO INTERRUPT WHILE HE'S STUFFING THE BARTENDER INTO THE ICE BUCKET...
Excl

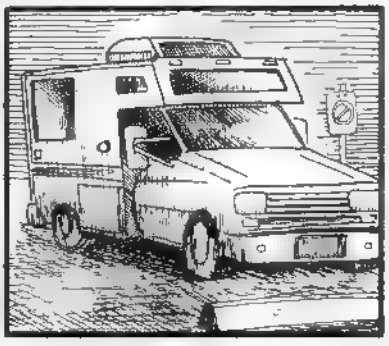
OH NO! CHUCK, YOU WASHED MY WHITE SWEAT PANTS WITH A RED SHIRT! AND NOW MY SWEATS -ARE... PINK!
oh, SORRY John.
PINK! PINK! I CAN'T WEAR these to the GYM! this is HORRIBLE!
OH come NOW JOHN, It's NOT THAT BAD. LISTEN, YOU go to the GYM to WORK OUT, NOT DRESS UP.
NO ONES GOING TO CARE WHAT COLOR YOUR SWEATS ARE YOU'RE A GROWN MAN, NOT A SCHOOL BOY
YOU'RE Right, it's NOT that BIG A DEAL.
THERE, thats a NICE ADULT OUTLOOK
LATER AT THE GYM
OH GIRL!
GET HER!
my, WHAT PRREETTY PANTIES!
OH, WORK THAT WRIST GIRL!
BRAD PARKER

BARRIERS BURNED AWAY.

I CAME OUT -- MOVED IN WITH MIKE -- MY PARENTS ABOUT DISOWNED ME -- THE OLD STORY. THAT WAS YEARS AGO.

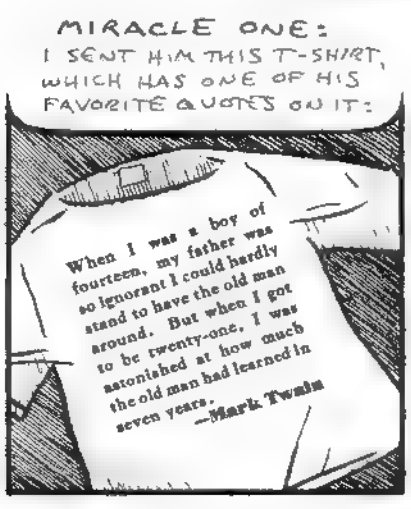


THEN MY MOM DIED, TWO YEARS AGO; AND DAD SOLD THE OLD HOUSE AND BOUGHT A TIOGA. NOW HE LIVES IN R.V. PARKS, TRAVELS ALL OVER THE STATES.



WE'VE GOTTEN BACK IN TOUCH, HE AND I. AND I'VE OBSERVED FOUR RECONCILATORY MIRACLES:

MIRACLE ONE:
I SENT HIM THIS T-SHIRT, WHICH HAS ONE OF HIS FAVORITE QUOTES ON IT:


When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.
—Mark Twain

MIRACLE TWO:
I FINALLY WORKED UP ENOUGH COURAGE TO SAY:

MIRACLE THREE:
HE FINALLY WORKED UP ENOUGH COURAGE TO SAY:

MIRACLE FOUR:

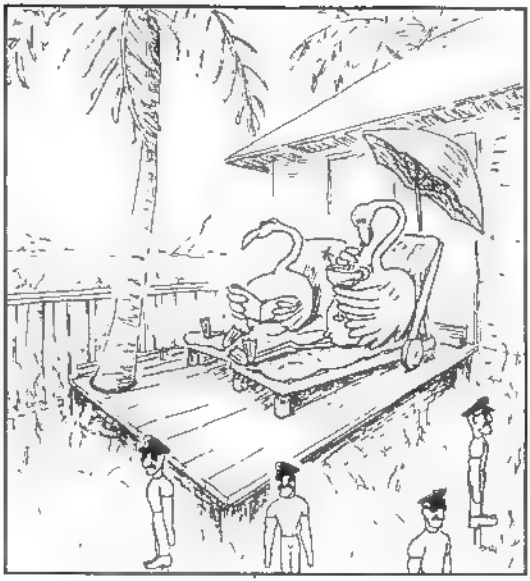
©1996 M CAMPOS TITLE SWIPED FROM E-P ROE. FOR BOB TRIPTOW

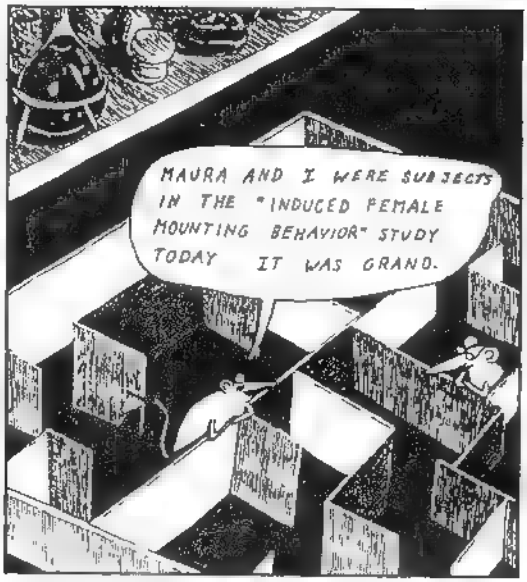
OUT the CHUTE

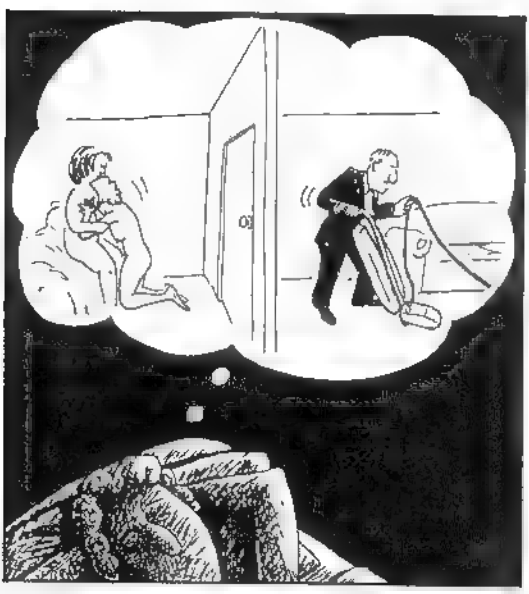
Joan Hilty...

FINE!!
NO, I EXPECTED THIS! YOU ALWAYS TREAT US BOTH LIKE DIRT! AT LEAST YOU'RE CONSISTENT!
WE HAD AN UNDERSTANDING!! BUT IF YOU'RE GONNA BACK OUT, I CAN'T STOP YOU!!
HEY! ...CHIEF YELLING BOY!! I NEED TO USE TH' PHONE.
JUST DON'T COME CRAWLING TO ME ON SATURDAY NIGHT!!
JERK!
YOU AND BRODE ON TH' OUTS AGAIN, DARLIN'?
EX-LOVERS' QUARREL AN' ALL THAT?
NO. IT'S MY DIOT CLOGGING TROUPE. BEN WON'T PARTNER WITH RUDY AT THE FESTIVAL SATURDAY
DAMN QUEENS
OH JEFFREY...
LOOK ON TH' BRIGHTSIDE... BY SPRING YOU'LL BE FULLY QUALIFIED TO MANAGE THE AVERAGE LESBIAN SOCCER TEAM.
HELLO? MAY AH SPEAK TO BONES? THIS'S HIS 8 PM ACT SHANA.
YOU'RE PLAYING TONIGHT?
UM HUH IN MOTLEYVILLE.
MOTLEYVILLE? ARE YOU NUTS?
NO, JUST BROKE.
LOOK, YOU AIN'T ROOMING W TH WYNONNA JUDD.
AND IT'S A NEW CLUB. IT'S JUST OPENING UP.
SO DO STAB WOUNDS DON T CONSIDER THEM A BIG PLUS.
... EXACTLY HOW OLD S THIS?
LOOK, MISTER 9 TO 5 JOB, CAN AH GET A LITTLE SUPPORT HERE? IT S A GIG! AH DON'T CARE HOW SLEAZY IT IS!!
?
SORRY, SORRY. SORRY SORRY. YOU'RE RIGHT M ACTING LIKE THE WORLD'S BIGGEST MORON YOU'LL HAVE A GREAT TIME.
PLEASE WELCOME
THE WORLD'S SECOND BIGGEST MORON.
NO SPITTING
HJohy©1996

Sex... is overrated?
I say I'm a pagan, right, that sex is good...
yeah?
That it's perfectly OK to fuck around as much as you want - you know, express yourself...
right...
No one will get hurt
Right, unless they want to get hurt
=wink=
=wink=
=TITTER=
But what about all the wasted energy wanking or thinking about sex, fantasizing about forbidden lustful wanton taboos?
Why do I always feel low-down + dirty, stanky, cranky and rotten when I actually get what I fantasize about?
Darling, you just have residual Catholic guilt syndrome. Relax, roll with it!
But it's the LOVE I want, the connectedness with a LOVED ONE that's really important. Sex without love fucks with my self-esteem and neediness issues
Or is it the other way around?
huh?
If you had better self-esteem, maybe sex without love wouldn't mess you up so much.
Yeah, or if I were totally enlightened I wouldn't even think about sex!
What's so great about being enlightened if you can't think about sex?
How the hell should I know? one thing at a time!
Bloobird
@sirius.com







The sexual fantasies of lesbians sometimes involve men

Do you date?
Who wants to know?
Noone... I was just wondering what you think of the concept.
Dating, dating...
You mean call a girl up, ask her to go out for dinner and a movie...
Tentatively put my arm around her during the second reel...
keep the conversation light, give her a kiss goodnight, nothing too serious... Yeah...
I did it once, moved in next week, had nine good years together, and, you know, I'd do it again.
So you date?
I'd have to say I do, yes
Another big debate in the lesbian community is
The old Butch/Femme thing... of course how could we forget!
First of all there's the butch/femme theory of relativity which states
If Martina Navratilova were my girlfriend I would be the femme, relatively speaking
Whereas if Jodie Foster were your girlfriend...
Be still my beating heart... I would, relatively speaking be the butch.
Then there are the femmy butch/butchy femme distinctions
Splitting hairs if you ask me
Agreed!
Take me, for example... solid core butch!
Me too... butch head to toe!!
Oh please... my mother is more butch than you!!
Wanna arm wrestle?
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EDITOR'S NOTES: ANDY MANGELS

I vaguely recall that it was issue #1, in 1980. Every other summer or so, my mother and I would make our trip from little Bigfork, Montana, to Long Beach, California, to visit her sister. One of the things I loved about the trip was that I got the chance to go to some actual comic book stores, not the poorly-stocked newsstands available in our area. I was scouting around one of the comic shops in Long Beach when I ducked into the area set aside for "Adult Readers," which was basically just an area protected by a wall-rack that came out from the side. There I saw it for the first time. . . *Gay Comix*. I picked it up carefully, along with some other book, watching carefully to see that no one else saw me with the *GAY* comic book. I flipped through it for a moment, noting that it didn't seem to have too much sex in it, then quickly put it back when someone else seemed to be nearing the divider wall. I exited the area, and returned to the mainstream comic world of brightly-colored panties-and-capes super-hero comics.

Eleven years later, Bob Ross approached me about editing the very same *Gay Comix*. Well, not the *same* one; thirteen issues had been published during that time, which I had acquired since coming out in 1988. I was no longer a scared Montana Mormon farm boy afraid to let somebody see me with *Gay Comix*. Instead, I had blown the closet up at twenty, then come out to the industry as the first openly gay "mainstream" professional in 1988, bolstered by support from Howard Cruse and others. I had produced a massive article for the industry news magazine *Amazing Heroes* - "Gays In Comics: The Creators and the Creations" - and had organized the first Gays In Comics panel at the San Diego Comic Con, as well as co-founding (with Roger Klorese) the *APA That Dare Not Speak It's Name*, a gay comic APA/fan club.

Because *Gay Comix* had seemingly gone on hiatus, I came up with a proposal for a new gay comic book series, ***Gay & Lesbian, Ink***. The proposal and sample issue made its rounds to various publishers, and it looked like Alyson would take on the project, but they backed out. So when Bob Ross approached me, and negotiations went smoothly, ***Gay Comix*** #14 was already pretty much ready for print.

As new editor, I brought over one of my policies from the ***Gay & Lesbian, Ink.*** proposal, each issue would have a guaranteed equality in contributorship. In other words 50% of the pages would be by male contributors, 50% would be by female contributors. It would be several issues before I had a transsexual contributor, but I put her in the category to which she assigned herself. In most other ways, I continued the policies of past editors. Both Howard Cruse and Robert Triptow had used gay-friendly heterosexual creators, or those who chose not to identify their sexuality. However, because the series would now be (I hoped) quarterly, this gave more work to gay and lesbian creators than ever before.

The other biggest change I made was in the title of the series. *Comix* with an "x" in the title always denoted an underground comic series, and to me, that reminded me of that segregated section in which I first saw ***Gay Comix***. I wanted to bring the series more into the "mainstream," not in terms of content, per se, but in terms of title. The comic book world had gone through changes in the late 80s, and what would have at one time been referred to as "underground comix" were now given the much friendlier name of "alternative comics."

I have a lot of memories about the last seven years of editing this series, many of them good, some bad. For every time I was crucified (as at Outwrite in 1992) or went through a hellacious signing (as at the March on Washington in 1993) there was a positive corollary: letters from first-time readers, rising sales, publicity for the series, and an increasing openly gay presence in the comic industry. One of the wildest rides was when Todd McFarlane donated an inside back cover of *Spawn*, the best-selling industry title, to ***Gay Comics*** advertising. He was attacked by stores who felt the action was inappropriate, but he stood by his actions, truly wanting to see diversity in the industry he loved. One of the highest moments was winning the 1993 Comics Creators Guild Award for Best Anthology, a particularly satisfying award given that the comic industry routinely shut the series out of public awards, and the Lambda Literary Awards couldn't be bothered to even consider a comic book as worthy.

Andy Mangels is the editor of *Gay Comix* #14 and Special #1, as well as *Gay Comics* #15-25.

And now we come to ***Gay Comics*** #25, our 80-page giant monster of an issue, which has taken much too long in the making. My attempt with the issue was to present a historical overview of the entire run of the series, and to spotlight as many people who had contributed to the run as possible. Tracking down over a hundred cartoonists proved an impossible task, but the wide variety of work and creators you'll see in this comic give testament to the long history of excellence we editors have had to work with. I hope that you'll read the biographies with as much attention as the comics themselves; here you'll find out much about the history of gay cartooning.

So will there be a ***Gay Comics*** #26? As I write this, I'm not sure. Sales are down, and the comic industry is in a slump. I feel certain that ***Gay Comics*** will again see publication, though perhaps not immediately. Will I be at the editorial helm? Again, I'm not sure. I've had a great run on the series, editing 13 issues, exactly the amount as the previous two editors. Perhaps it's time to pass the baton. But if I do so, it will be with pride, in not only a healthy run on the series as editor, but also in the chance to bring to your attention dozens of gay and lesbian creators, and in this historical volume you hold in your hands.

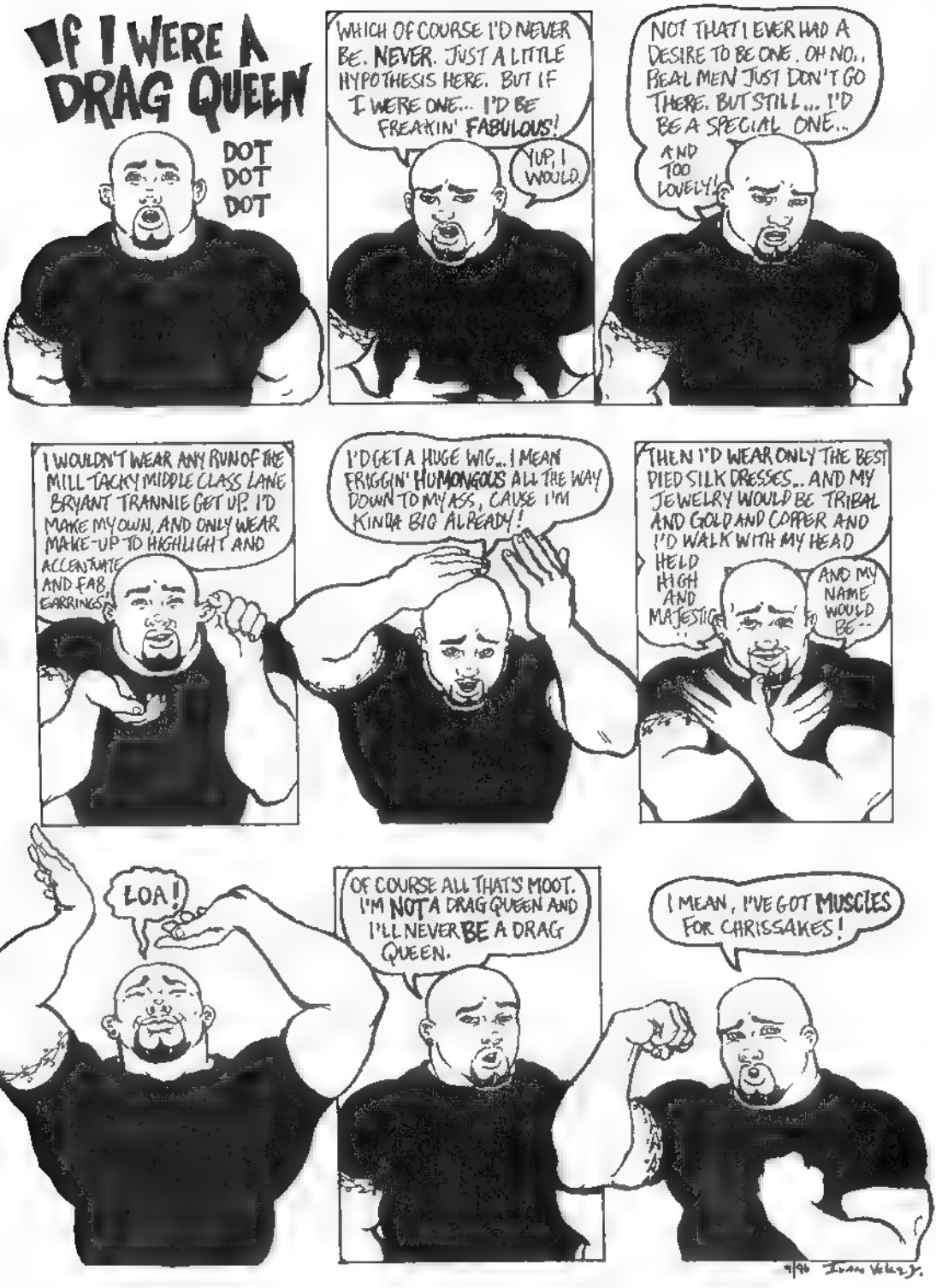
Somewhere, I hope that another young comic reader will pick this issue up, and be as inspired as I was, seventeen years ago, in a store in Long Beach.

The
GAY
AGENDA
FROM OUT OF THE CLOSET
DEVIANT
AND WE'LL DRES
LON
MABON

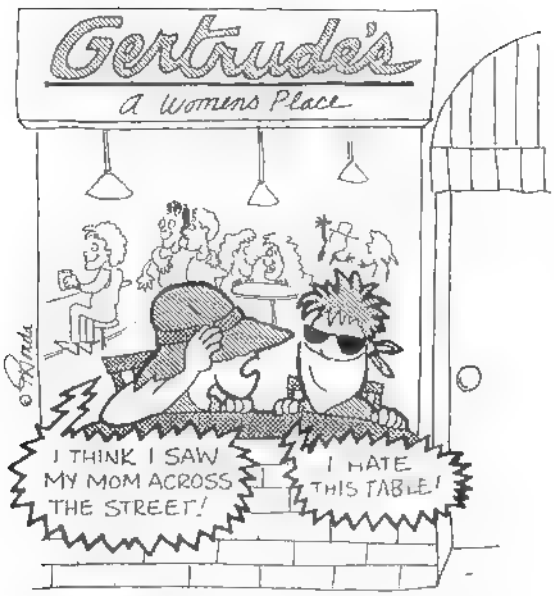
B.D.'s "Day at the Mall" #1
BURGER PIMP
CHIK'N LIPS & MORE!
MOMMY
I WANNA BE LIKE HER!
SAPPHO SALVAGE
F.U.
things & Stuff
MODERN WHORE & MORE
Mini Bovine Cosmetix
CHIK'N LIPS & MORE!
Jac 96

Bernie
CREATED BY...
Dave Shelton
HI NEIGHBORS!... WE JUST MOVED IN. I'M PHIL!
NICE TO MEET YOU, PHIL... I'M ALLAN... AND THIS IS BERNIE.
WE'VE BEEN TOGET-HER TWELVE YEARS!
YOU, YOU MEAN YOUR'E ... UH ... GAY?
JUST LIKE A CHRISTMAS TREE!
UH, OH! LOOKS LIKE WE SCARED HIM!
SLAM!
HE ACTS LIKE WE'RE THE LEPERS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD!
HEATHER... WE HAVE GAY NEIGHBORS ...OH GOD!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?!
WE'RE BECOMING... "UPWARDLY MOBILE!"
David Shelton ©1996

Brigga Dune
I CAN'T DECIDE IF VOTING IS A HARD FOUGHT-FOR RIGHT OR A WASTED AND MISGUIDED EFFORT. I'M NOT SURE I CAN BRING MYSELF TO TAKE PART IN THIS CHOICELESS FARCE!!
BUT, IF I DON'T VOTE... HOW CAN I RIGHTFULLY BITCH ABOUT THE END RESULTS!
CLINTON
TICK TICK TICK
ZZZZ...
ONE VOTE MAKES YOU LARGER ONE VOTE MAKES YOU SMALL AND THE VOTE THAT MOTHER GIVES YOU ISN'T ANY VOTE AT ALL...
VOTE HERE
SOMEONE STOP ME!
SHE (Shudder) VOTES...
I KNOW! I'LL VOTE FOR A FICTICIOUS CANDIDATE! THAT MAKES A STATEMENT... I THINK!
CAN YOU TELL ME WHEN AND WHERE THE NEXT MEETING IS?
Herry yup..
HI, MY NAME IS BRIGGA AND I AM A COMPULSIVE VOTER...
©96 J.D.March


IF I WERE A DRAG QUEEN
DOT DOT DOT
WHICH OF COURSE I'D NEVER BE. NEVER. JUST A LITTLE HYPOTHESIS HERE. BUT IF I WERE ONE... I'D BE FREAKIN' FABULOUS!
YUP, I WOULD.
NOT THAT I EVER HAD A DESIRE TO BE ONE. OH NO., REAL MEN JUST DON'T GO THERE. BUT STILL... I'D BE A SPECIAL ONE..
AND TOO LOVELY!
I WOULDN'T WEAR ANY RUN OF THE MILL TACKY MIDDLE CLASS LANE BRYANT TRANNIE GET UP. I'D MAKE MY OWN, AND ONLY WEAR MAKE-UP TO HIGHLIGHT AND ACCENTUATE AND FAB, EARRINGS.
I'D GET A HUGE WIG.. I MEAN FRIGGIN' HUMONGOUS ALL THE WAY DOWN TO MY ASS, CAUSE I'M KINDA BIG ALREADY!
THEN I'D WEAR ONLY THE BEST DIED SILK DRESSES.. AND MY JEWELRY WOULD BE TRIBAL AND GOLD AND COPPER AND I'D WALK WITH MY HEAD HELD HIGH AND MAJESTIC
AND MY NAME WOULD BE--
LOA!
OF COURSE ALL THAT'S MOOT. I'M NOT A DRAG QUEEN AND I'LL NEVER BE A DRAG QUEEN.
I MEAN, I'VE GOT MUSCLES FOR CHRISSAKES!
9/96 Ivan Velez Jr.

MEIN HERR~ <LOOKIT THIS.>
<DEAR?>
<IT'S GAY COMICS, HAVING ITS SIXTEENTH ANNIVERSARY, WITH ITS 25TH ISSUE.>
<THE DESERT PEACH, IS HAVING ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY, WITH ITS 25TH ISSUE.>
MEIN HERR, <WHERE ARE YOU GOING?>
<TO GET SOME CHAMPAGNE.>
PROSIT.
<WE'LL NEED ANOTHER BOTTLE.>
ONNA SARR %©



LESBIAN SURVIVAL HINT #168:
SOME SPECIES OF GAY PRIDE FLOWER BEST IN INDIRECT LIGHT.

LESBIAN SURVIVAL HINT #257:
IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO BEGIN PREPARING FOR THE SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVALS.

LESBIAN SURVIVAL HINT #172:
THERE'S JUST NO SUCH THING AS A LESBIAN STEREOTYPE.

LESBIAN SURVIVAL HINT #157:
FOR MOST LESBIANS, THE "COMING" PART IS EASY. IT'S THE "OUT" PART THAT'S PESKY.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING...
WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS STUFF THAT'S SO ATTRACTIVE?
AFTER ALL, DOC, IT'S JUST CLOTHING — COTTON, WOOL, SOME OVERSTITCHING — AND YET, PUT TOGETHER, IT BECOMES, SYMBOLICALLY, ALMOST TANGIBLY POWERFUL...
IS IT THE UNRESOLVED CONFLICT WITH A PATERNAL AUTHORITY FIGURE? — OR IS IT MERELY A REASSERTION OF PERSONAL EMPOWERMENT IN A SOCIALLY UNSTABLE CULTURE?
WHAT'S YOUR THEORY? WHAT DO YOU LIKE?
I LIKE KNOWING BARELY CONCEALED UNDER THE VENEER OF DISCIPLINE AND CONTROL IS A SEETHING VOLCANO OF PRIMAL LUST, JUST WAITING TO EXPLODE WHEN I RIP THIS PUPPY OFF YOU WITH MY TEETH, LEAVING YOU IN LITTLE BUT SWEATY EXPECTATION...
NOT REAL BIG ON SOCIAL ANALYSIS, EH?
DAMN THE SOCIETY — FULL INCISORS AHEAD...
MARTIN!

IF I WERE THE GOALKEEPER
BY J.A. FLUDD
MY NAME'S DAVE TAYLOR. I PLAY VARSITY SOCCER. YOU'D THINK MY HERO WOULD BE SOMEBODY LIKE PELÉ--OR AT LEAST ANDREW SHUE! BUT MY HERO'S A SUPER-HERO! MY HERO IS...
THE GOALKEEPER! HE'S SUPER-STRONG, THERE'S NOBODY FASTER, AND HE CONTROLS LIGHT!
THAT'S WHAT THE SOCCER BALLS THAT HE FLIES ON ARE MADE OF
IF I WERE THE GOALKEEPER THERE WOULDN'T BE A VILLAIN LEFT STANDING! AND ALL THE WOMEN... THEY'D BE ON ME LIKE THE GOLD AND BLACK ON HIS COSTUME!
THERE'S JUST ONE THING THAT BURNS ME SOME PEOPLE GO AROUND SAYING THE GOALIE'S GAY! CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT? THE GOALKEEPER--A QUEER! JUST 'CAUSE HE WENT TO WEST HOLLYWOOD TO TALK TO THAT FAG HERO ADONIS WHO DRESSES UP LIKE A GAY FLAG!
WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT? FOR ALL ANYBODY KNOWS, THEY COULD HAVE BEEN SWAPPING NOTES ON WHAT VILLAINS THEY'D FOUGHT! IT DIDN'T HAVE TO MEAN ANYTHING QUEER WAS GOING ON!
IF I WERE THE GOALIE, THEY'D NEVER SAY CRAP LIKE THAT ABOUT ME!
THOSE FAGS! THEY ALWAYS WANNA BELIEVE EVERYBODY'S JUST LIKE THEM!
©1986 J.A. FLUDD

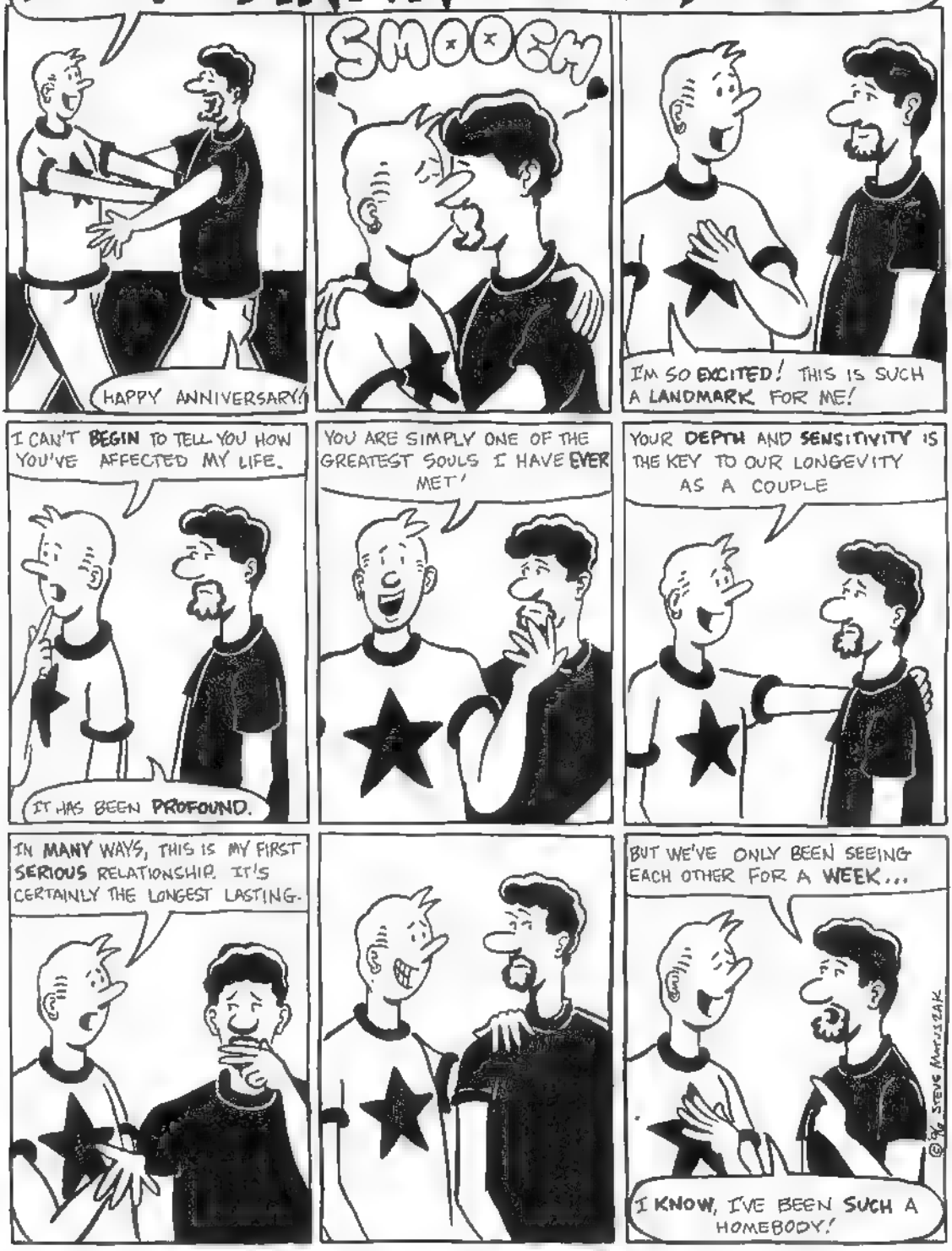
Life as a TOMBOY
Julie Franki 1996
NOBODY REALLY EXPECTS YOU TO SHOW UP WEARING A DRESS TO FORMAL OCCASIONS.
CHURCH CIRCA 1975
I HAD TO BEG TO WEAR PANTS
CHURCH CIRCA 1996
COMING ONCE A YEAR IS MIRACLE ENOUGH
GUYS ARE MORE LIKELY TO ENGAGE YOU IN REAL CONVERSATION INSTEAD OF THE FLIRTING RITUAL.
..blah, blah, blah... flat tax ..
blah, blah, minimum wage poverty blah blah..
DAILY PLANET
PEOPLE ASSUME YOU'RE GOOD AT ALL SPORTS.
Hey, can you play right field? We're short...
Sorry, these are basketball shoes.
We play B-ball on Tuesdays!
I don't play basketball.
STRANGERS ASSUME YOU'RE YOUNGER THAN YOU ARE.
Much younger
What have you got on tap?
May I see an I.D.?
Geez! Is it because I don't wear make-up?!
YOU CAN TALK HOT WHEELS.
Is this the original '78 Trans Am?
Yeah, and the hood and doors open!
THERE IS A LONG LEGACY OF TOMBOY ROCK AND ROLL CHICKS AND YOU FANTASIZE ABOUT PLAYING BASS IN AN ALL-GIRL BAND.
you would have arms like Me'Shell NdegéOcello.
MAKE-UP IS NOT AN ISSUE.
Yeah, but what is all this hair stuff -- confixor, witchhazel hairspray, rosemary mint conditioner...
squeaky clean.
PAJAMAS MEAN BOXERS AND YOUR WASHED-TO-TATTERS INDIGO GIRLS CONCERT SHIRT FROM SIX YEARS AGO.
bedhead
Sexy, huh?
veggies
AUTUMN MEANS POTLUCK FOOTBALL SUNDAYS.
What happened?!
Where's th' call? He was holding!
yee-ha the end!

GOODBYE TO YOU

© 1996 BY ROBERT KIRBY

JOE?
LONNIE?
OMIGOD, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME....
YEAH! HOW HAVE YOU BEEN? YOU STILL WORKING AT ALBRECHTS?
JOE, THIS IS LONNIE. HE WORKS IN WINDOW DRESSING WITH ME DOWNTOWN
HEY
HI THERE.
YEAH, STILL THE SAME OLD, SAME OLD.... HOW 'BOUT YOU? WHAT'RE YOU UP TO LATELY?
I'M DOING PARA-LEGAL WORK AT A LAW FIRM OVER ON 51ST AND PARK.. BEEN THERE FOR A YEAR NOW.
OH UH...THAT'S NICE. I TAKE IT YOU'RE ALL DONE WITH SCHOOL THEN?
I GUESS SO...FOR NOW ANYWAY. I DON'T HAVE THE STOMACH TO THINK ABOUT GRAD SCHOOL RIGHT NOW...
YEAH, YOU NEVER WERE THE CONFIRMED ACADEMIC TYPE, WERE YOU?
NAH NOT ME! HAHA
(HAHA)
UH: HAPPY ANNIVERSARY BABY!
OHM YEAH
STUDYING MY ASS! YOU NEVER WANT TO DO ANYTHING WITH MY FRIENDS!
WELL MAYBE IF YOUR FRIENDS WEREN'T JUST A BUNCH OF SNOOTY, PRETENTIOUS ART FAGS!
SO, YOU STILL WRITING? HOW'S THAT GOING?
OH, YOU KNOW... IT'S DIFFICULT, BUT I'M STILL PLUGGIN' AWAY AT IT...I PUBLISHED A SHORT STORY IN A JOURNAL LAST YEAR.
THAT'S NICE— GOSH, YOU KNOW IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BUT I NEED TO RUN... I UH, I'LL SEE YOU SOON, OKAY?
YEAH, THAT'D BE ...NICE! BYE NOW!
...BUT WE'LL ALWAYS BE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
SURE WE WILL. :SNIFF: YOU'LL ALWAYS BE IMPORTANT TO ME SWEETIE
END.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, DARLING


HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
SMOOCH
I'M SO EXCITED! THIS IS SUCH A LANDMARK FOR ME!
I CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU HOW YOU'VE AFFECTED MY LIFE.
IT HAS BEEN PROFOUND.
YOU ARE SIMPLY ONE OF THE GREATEST SOULS I HAVE EVER MET!
YOUR DEPTH AND SENSITIVITY IS THE KEY TO OUR LONGEVITY AS A COUPLE
IN MANY WAYS, THIS IS MY FIRST SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP. IT'S CERTAINLY THE LONGEST LASTING.
BUT WE'VE ONLY BEEN SEEING EACH OTHER FOR A WEEK...
I KNOW, I'VE BEEN SUCH A HOMEBODY!
©'96 STEVE MORRISEAK

RANDY TOWERS A TALE

by Diana Green

"HAVE WE MET?..." "WELL, YES, BUT I'VE LOST A FEW INCHES SINCE THEN..."

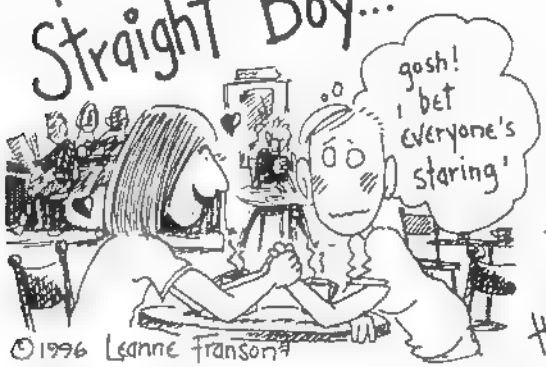
AAAH! LOOK, KARL, I'VE BEEN DOWN THIS ROAD BEFORE, AND THERE'S NO DELICATE WAY TO SAY THIS- I HAD A SEX-CHANGE OPERATION ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO. EITHER YOU CAN DEAL WITH IT OR YOU CAN'T!
DAVE! OMIGAWD! IT IS AYOU!

THE NAME'S ATHENA NOW, PAL.
WOW- YOU LOOK GREAT!
THANKS -THIS IS MY BUDDY DENA.
HEY, DENA.
CALL ME. HERE'S MY CARD. YOU STILL WITH DOT?
HEY
OH, YEAH- 24 YEARS NOW. GOTTA GO. SEE YA SOON!

WHY SO GLUM, CHUM?
AH, YOU KNOW ME- ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT PASSING!
FAR OUT
OH, GIVE IT A REST- HE SAID THE SAME THING ALL GUYS SAY- YOU LOOK GREAT!

GURL, ARE YOU EVER SATISFIED?
WELL, YES AND NO...
Fate's design, playing natures mine, and today by chance we meet again after all this time~
Meeting in this way, no-one could have known.
A REUNION, Gentle Giant

Liliane in the Sensitive Straight Boy...



©1996 Leanne Franson

Well... ya know, Sometimes worrying about living up to the lesbian competition really spurs the straight boys on...

...but it's weird ... my life is so queer and he's... well... So straight!

BZZZZZT!

...just a sec... the doorbell...

...i know it's outta the blue... but i don't wanna see you anymore.. don't even call me...

...he said it's cuz i MIGHT go to Michigan in three weeks ...and IF i go i MIGHT go to lesbian sex parties...

...right now i don't have the money or a lift!!

...but you sound relieved!

3 weeks later...

Little Homo in Wet Dream Land
OH MY!
EEK!
WHERE EVER AM I AT ?!?
OOF!
SUCH A STRANGE PLACE!
HEY!
WHO ARE YOU?
WE THREE ARE GUIDES. I'M CHESTER. THIS IS ARMAND.
YOU SAY THERE ARE THREE OF YOU?
OVER THERE IS OUR PAL RICHARD. NOW PLEASE FOLLOW US.
OH MY!
YOU CAN CALL HIM DICK!
BY DAVID SEXTON AND P. CRAIG RUSSELL - 96

WAKE UP!!!
huhmmn?
IT'S ELEVEN THIRTY!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE NO SLAVE...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO WORK ALL DAY
T-SSST!
BUT I WANT YOU TO BE TRUE...

AND I JUST WANNA MAKE LOVE TO YOU...
...LOVE TO YOU...
GULP! GULP! SHALLOW! DRINK!
SEE YA TOMORROW BIG GUY!!!
ELEVEN THIRTY.
IT'S THE
DIET SPUNK
REAL THING.

BORN QUEER

THOSE YOUNG & TORTURED YEARS

©1996 BY DIANE DIMASSA

I GOT TWO WORDS FOR SURVIVING ADOLESCENCE: DAVID BOWIE. OK? IT WAS HIM AND THE THREE DRAG QUEENS IN MY HIGH SCHOOL AND I WAS IN LOVE WITH ALL OF THEM. IN MY SCARY SCHOOL FULLA FLANNEL SHIRTS AND KEGGERS, THOSE DRAG QUEENS SHOWED UP EVERY MORNING IN CHIFFON NECK SCARVES N' CASHMERE SWEATERS. THEY FROZE ME. THEY CAUSED ME TIDAL WAVES. I COULDN'T BELIEVE THE GLORY TO SHOW UP AT THAT SCHOOL LIKE THAT! AND IT WAS OBVIOUS THE "GIRLS" JUST HAD TO BECAUSE THEY KEPT DOING SO EVEN THO THEY GOT THEIR HEADS FLUSHED IN THE TOILET ALL THE TIME. AND LIKEWISE IN A WORLD FULL OF COCKROCK, THIS FLAME-HEADED WHAT-IZZIT BIRD ALL OF A SUDDEN COMES TITTERING ACROSS THE STAGE NOT EVEN TRYING TO PRETEND ANYTHING BUT THAT HE'S A SPACE FAGGOT AND FOR THE FIRST TIME MY GUTS FALL INTO PLACE. OH, TIDAL WAVES, TREMORS AND EARTH-QUAKES! ZIGGY PLAYED GUITAR AND I PLAYED WITH MYSELF. HE WAS MY SECRET, MY HOPE, ME AND HIM IN MY ROOM AND I CAN SAY THAT I MADE IT PARTLY BECUZ OF HIS PRESENCE IN THE WORLD AND THAT'S WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO BE WHATEVER THE HELL YOU ARE - YOU MAY HELP SOMEBODY, LIKE, A LOT, JUST BECAUSE THEY SEE YOU. AND THOSE THREE QUEENS... ONE IS MARRIED WITH KIDS, ONE IS A WOMAN NOW, AND ONE IS GONE; MY FIRST AIDS LOSS, ANOTHER STARMAN WAITING IN THE SKY AND HE SURE LEFT A MARK ON ME. AND BOWIE, WELL WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING NOW AND IT DOESN'T MATTER. HE DID ME THEN AN' THAT'S WHEN I NEEDED IT. THE TIMING WAS PERFECT AND NOW I'M HERE AND AFTER ALL I'VE BEEN THRU AND SEEN WHICH IS A HELL OF A LOT I LOOK AROUND AND HE'S STILL THE BIGGEST FREAK I EVER SAW.

Shanda
THE PANDA
©1996 MIKE CURTIS
Cricket Dreams
TERRIE SMITH ©96

HEARTBREAKERS™
QUEENE DO YOU EVER REFLECT BACK ON THOSE YEARS WE SPENT IN THE OUTER PLANETS?
"MEMORY LANE"
I MISS THERESE AND OUR SISTER CLONES. WE WERE SURROUNDED BY FAMILIAR FACES BACK THEN.
TRUE. WE HAVE FRIENDS HERE WHO'LL GLADLY JUMP TO OUR DEFENSE IF NEED BE. BUT EVEN THE NEW HEARTBREAKERS DID NOT ACTUALLY EXPERIENCE LIFE ON GANYMEDE WITH US.
"SIGH." I FEAR WE MAY NEVER AGAIN ENJOY THAT SAME SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION
AT LEAST YOU AND I CAN ALWAYS DEPEND ON ONE ANOTHER -- DESPITE YOUR BEING QUITE WRAPPED UP WITH TEXLATELY RIGHT, QUEENIE?
QUEENE ?
ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU LISTEN WHEN I TALK! BUT YOU CAN'T EVEN DO THAT FOR ME, CAN YOU? PERHAPS IF YOU WEREN'T SO BUSY DAYDREAMING.

"HEARTBREAKERS" TM©1995 PAUL QUINAN & ANIKA BENNETT

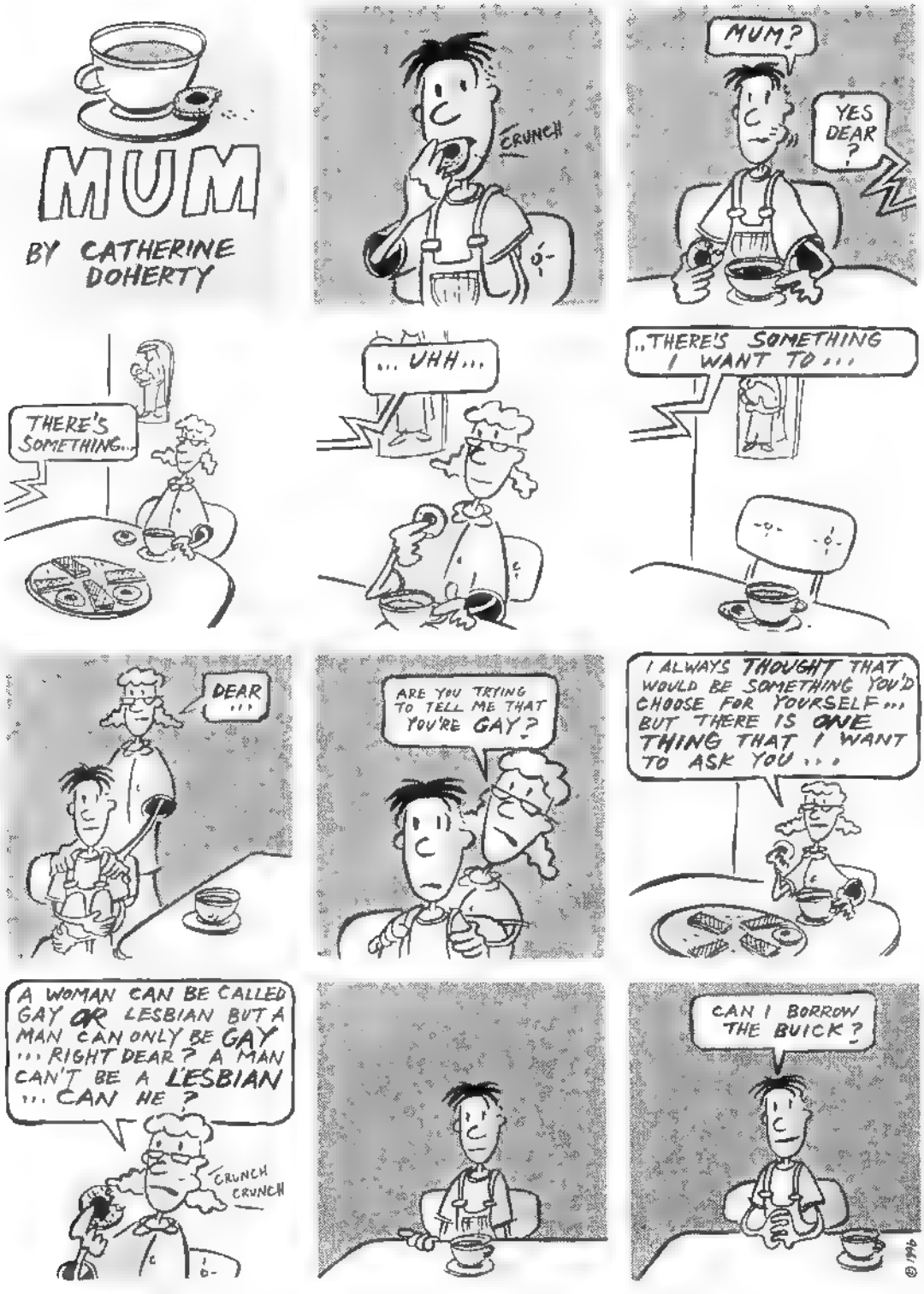
The night I told my family about Pat and me...
my 13-page "sermon"
my Mom
my Dad
TELL ME THIS, ANDY...
my sisters (they already knew about me.)
AND SO IN CONCLUSION, I WOULD LIKE TO QUOTE RALPH WALDO EMERSON
WHAT IF YOU MET A GIRL?
WHAT IF YOU MET A GIRL?
WELL, UM...
I DON'T KNOW...
DAD!
DAD!
I MEAN-- I'D SAY "NO"! I'D SAY "NO"!
HEH
BUT IT'S NOT THE SAME FOR YOU.
IS IT?
ANDY HARTZELL '96

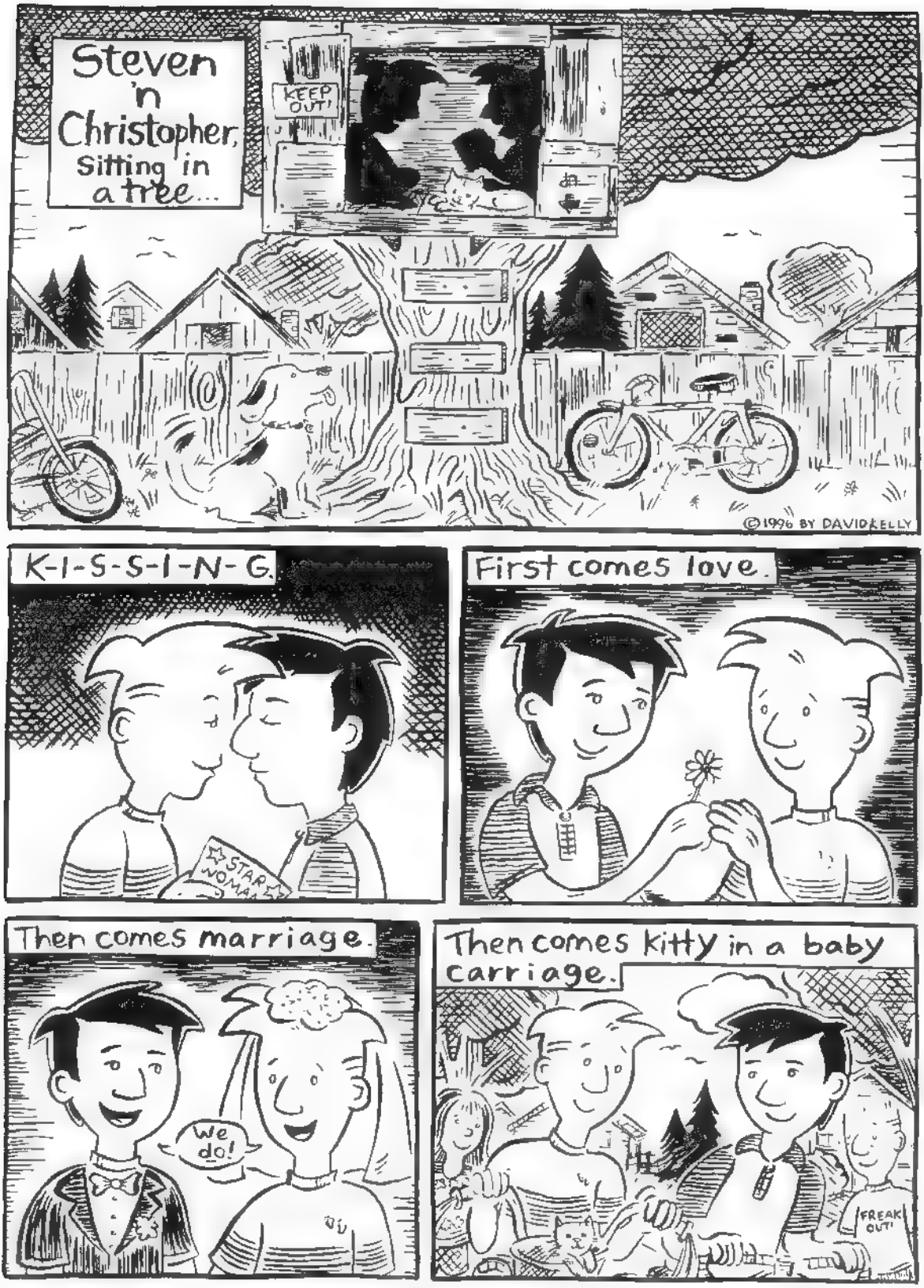
ONE OF MY FIRST EROTIC EXPERIENCES WITH ART WAS TRACING THE BODIES OF SUPERHEROES IN MY BIG BROTHER'S COMIC BOOKS
I LOVED THE ARTISTS LIKE G/L KANE WHO DREW MEN SO ANATOMICALLY CORRECT
SHK
I WOULD SPEND HOURS LOVINGLY COPYING THE FIGURES AND THEN EMBELLISHING THEM WITH GENITALIA
THE 70'S WAS THE HEYDAY OF THE BULGE ALL THE MEN HAD A NICE HEALTHY LUMP IN THEIR TIGHTS
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE CHILD HOOD TRAUMA THAT WOULD LEAD THESE NEW ARTISTS TO BE SO OBSESSED WITH DRAWING CASTRATED STEROIDIC PINHEADS
THIS EVOLUTION OF SUCH A SEXUALLY CHARGED IDEAL OF MASCULINITY FROM THE DO-GOODER WHO WORE SPANDEX TO A SELF LOATHING DICKLESS MONSTER DISTURBS ME GREATLY
?!
NOT BEING INTO THE WHOLE SUPERHERO FANTASY I NEVER DREW THE COSTUMES BUT EVEN AT THAT TENDER AGE I STILL UNDERSTOOD THEM
THEY HAD A SECRET SELF

BERTHA THE BRUISER WAS A PILLER OF THE COMMUNITY
SHE WORKED OUT AT THE GYM SHE PLAYED SOFTBALL SHE CHEWED TOBACCO.
PTUI!
SHE HAD A HARLEY. SHE ALWAYS WORE FLANNEL.
HEY BABE!
DYKE SECRETS
SHE TOLD HER LOVER EVERYTHING EVERYTHING, THAT IS, EXCEPT
UUNH!
DO YOU WANT IT?
YES!
HER SECRET!
NOT ONLY DID SHE SECRETLY WEAR PATRIARCHAL UNDERWEAR..
GOSH! I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY GOT INTO OUR LAUNDRY!! heh, heh...
FRI
BUT LATE AT NIGHT, SHE WOULD ROAM THE STREETS OF SUBURBIA IN PUMPS!
MOMMY, WHY IS THAT LESBIAN WEARING A DRESS?
SHH! DON'T STARE.
©1994 STEPHANIE M. PENNINGTON

GAY COMICS: CONGRATS ON YOUR 25th!

"human interaction"
©1996 Bex Nioni / Beck Main
Nadia, Thalia, + Kylie join the protest when U.S. warships come to Sydney Harbour. That is - they pick on girl sailors
Even when we think you're wrong, we're polite. We call you "American", or say you're "from overseas"!
So - like billions of people, all over the world, I wanna know - Why do you call us all ALIENS?
It kinda doesn't matter if they're nasty neo-colonialists and we're ineffectual aliens...
The U.S.A. is bad... but I think Americans are so glamorous
Cos we do have other things in common with some of them. They're like ALIENS, too... (Tho' they can't say so.)
specially for Cathy V.


MUM
BY CATHERINE DOHERTY
CRUNCH
MUM?
YES DEAR?
THERE'S SOMETHING...
... UHH...
"THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO...
DEAR...
ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME THAT YOU'RE GAY?
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE SOMETHING YOU'D CHOOSE FOR YOURSELF... BUT THERE IS ONE THING THAT I WANT TO ASK YOU...
A WOMAN CAN BE CALLED GAY OR LESBIAN BUT A MAN CAN ONLY BE GAY ... RIGHT DEAR? A MAN CAN'T BE A LESBIAN ... CAN HE?
CRUNCH CRUNCH
CAN I BORROW THE BUICK?
© 1961


Steven 'n Christopher, sitting in a tree...
KEEP OUT!
©1996 BY DAVID KELLY
K-I-S-S-I-N-G.
STAR WOMAN
First comes love.
Then comes marriage.
we do!
Then comes kitty in a baby carriage.
FREAK OUT!

See Jane

by paige braddock

PRESENTS...

How many lesbians does it take to put together a basketball goal?!

Excuse me, but is that a Sears® receipt I see on that box?
Yeah, so?
It says here.... "only 347 easy to assemble parts."
How could you shop there?! With that "softer side" ad campaign...
©paige braddock 1996

...I mean what kind of message is that for women?!
They're talking about power tools... not politics. When's the last time you used a power tool anyway?
I know one power tool that's going to get a work out tonight...
honey?

That Was Then, This Is Now...
-a story of a future without AIDS.
By Lynx & Dennis
-for NEAL POZNER...
-umm... TAKE HIM TO BON MOT BOOKS ON 43RD..
THAT'S $17.50 IN ADVANCE, WITH GRATUITY INCLUDED +$4 SURCHARGE
....IF HE PAYS AT DESTINATION, HON...
HOW CAN I DO A SIGNING, MICHEL!!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'VE WRITTEN!
HERE'S YOUR FLUID BOOK, AMOUR. IT'LL HELP YOU!
A WHAT??
(gr'n) -I'LL PICK YOU UP AFTER THE SIGNING - WE'LL HAVE DINNER; AT CHANSON'S. OUI?
RRRRIGHT... ...SURE.
er- right. sure. after the signing.
I LOVE YOU JEROD...
WHAT TH' HECK IS A FLUID BOOK??
FLUID BOOK
CHAMPION - DEATH CAMP
LAUGHING AT AIDS
CHAMPION - REARVIEW
- CIRCE...
& AUTHORS NOTES.
TH CAMP - LAUGHI
AMPIONE PETERSON
SERVICE MIRROR ON
HAMPION, JEROD
...THIS IS NOW CHAMPION, JEROD
WHOA!! THOSE ARE MY BOOKS?!
WONDER IF I'M ANY GOOD?

continued.....

PRIDE

Real Name: Dustyn Tavish
Occupation: Super-Hero
Marital Status: In gay relationship
Height: 6'2" Weight: 210 lbs.
Hair: Blond Eyes: Blue/Black/Gold
First Appearance: *Gay Comics* #16
Created by Andy Mangels
Costume Design by Greg Phillips, Andy Mangels, and J.A. Fludd

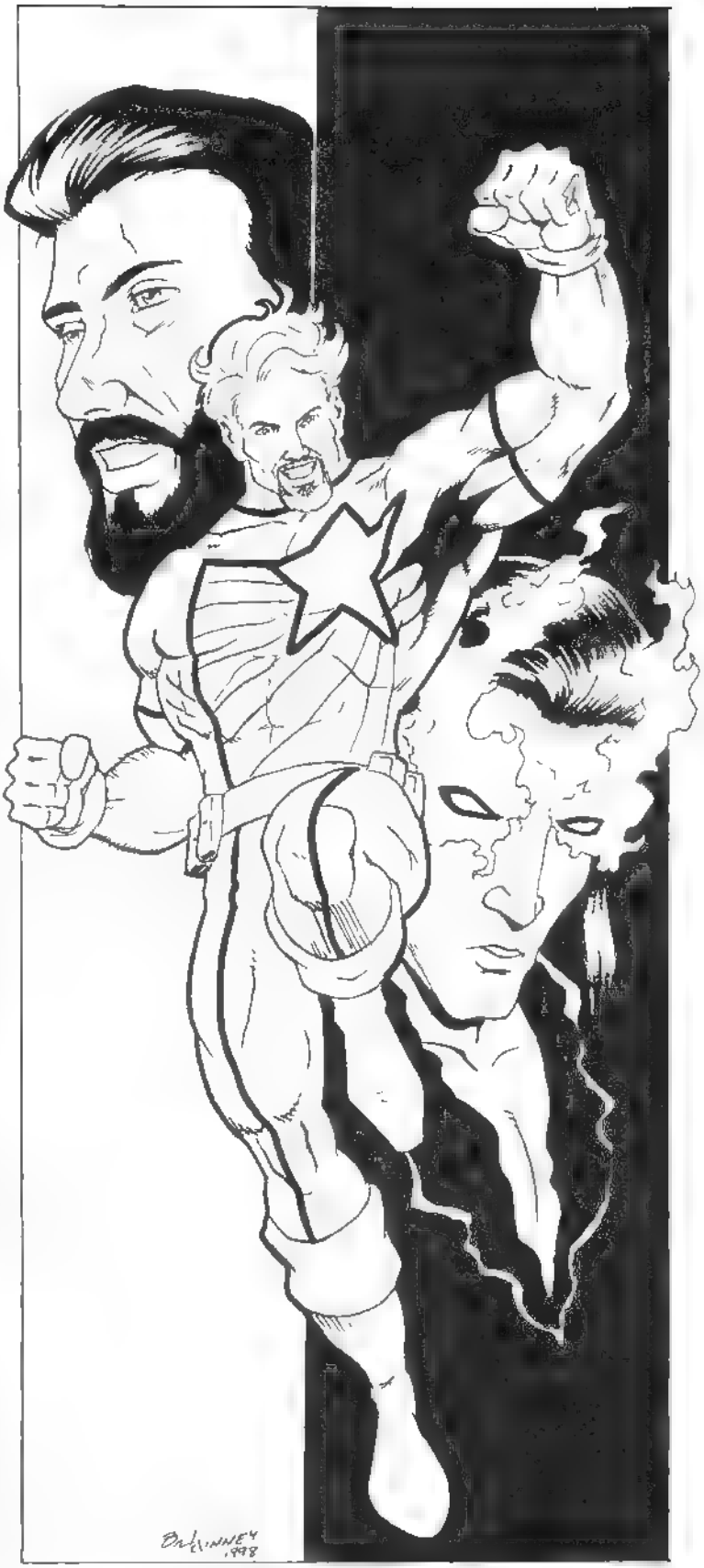
The past of the hero known as Pride is shrouded in mystery, and the enigmatic man seems to prefer that it remain so. He first appeared in the mid-1980s, fighting crime and saving lives in a number of East Coast cities. At the time he was known as "Sentinel," but he was later forced to change the name as a result of a comic book company which threatened a lawsuit over trademark infringement.

Pride is a much more apt name for the hero, as he has been openly gay since his first appearance, lending his hand at gay events, and speaking for gay rights at rallies and in the halls of Congress. Governmental investigations into Pride's past have revealed almost nothing, and even his closest friends know little about him. He is independently wealthy, and lives in a penthouse he inherited from an old friend, an enigmatic woman known as Rose.

Serving Pride in his penthouse is a man known as Kristoff, who seemingly has the power to fly, to melt invisibly into shadows, and whose eyes coruscate with power Kristoff has referred to himself as Pride's "Ten'La" - a servant of the Kroven, who appear to be some sort of vampiric race. Rose was one of the Kroven, but it is unclear whether or not Pride is a member of the race, or whether he is tied into them somehow in his past

Pride's super-powers include heightened strength and speed, the power of flight, a measure of invulnerability, and the ability to transform his garments with a thought. He may have other powers, but they have not been revealed

Recently, Pride rescued a young fire fighter named Trent Conlin from a burning building. The two have since struck up a romance, which has become serious. Pride has not told Trent the secrets of his past, though he intended to. Unfortunately, before he got the chance, Trent was gay-bashed, he is currently in a coma. The police believe that Pride may have murderously lashed out at another group of gay-bashers, but whether the hero has allowed a darker side to slip free has also not yet been revealed



A HISTORY OF CONTRIBUTORS

T. Amatrudo
(Gay Comix #7)
The whereabouts and credits of T Amatrudo are unknown

Tim Barela
(Gay Comix #5–7, 10–14, Special #1 / Gay Comics #25)
A native Californian, Tim Barela began working professionally as a cartoonist in the mid-'70s. An avid motorcyclist, he contributed to *Cycle News*, *Biker*, *Cycle World*, *Choppers*, and *Biker Lifestyle*. In the '80s, Tim's personal life and career took a radical turn out the closet door. It was then that Tim decided to give two minor gay characters from an abandoned project their own comic strip. Initially rejected by *The Advocate*, Barela's strip was enthusiastically accepted by Robert Triptow for *Gay Comix*, and "Leonard & Larry" made its first appearance in 1984. Today the strip appears in the biweekly national newsmagazine *Frontiers* and has been released in two book collections. *Domesticity Isn't Pretty* ($15.00 postpaid) and *Kurt Cobain and Mozart Are Both Dead* ($12.00 postpaid). Order them from Palliard Press, 912 West Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55408. "Leonard & Larry" was also part of *Out of the Inkwell*, a four-segment play presented in 1994 by San Francisco's Theatre Rhinoceros.

Mark Barnard
(Gay Comics #22)
Mark Barnard is one of the artists behind the anthropomorphic *Shanda the Panda* series. Mark is a Kansas man who edits the SF zine *Midnight Sonata* and has contributed to numerous small press publications.

Donna Barr
(Gay Comics #15, 16, 25)
Since 1986, Donna Barr has been drawing and writing *The Desert Peach* — a history of the Desert Fox's fictional gay brother, through which she can say whatever she thinks needs to be said about the 20th century — and *Stinz*, which on the surface appears to be about a centaur, but which is really about us two-leggers. Her work has been recognized by *The Washington Post* and by the New York Public Library, which featured *The Desert Peach* in its 1996 centennial exhibition. For her catalog, send a SASE to Donna Barr's Excellent Items, 1318 N. Montgomery, Bremerton, WA 98312-3056. E-mail her at dbarr@linknet.kitsap.lib.wa.us, and check out her web page at http://www.tooluser.com/barr.

Alison Bechdel
(Gay Comix #10 / Gay Comics #19, 25)
Alison Bechdel was born in 1960 to a pair of English teachers in rural Pennsylvania. As soon as possible, she went away to Oberlin College, came out, and moved to New York City. It was there, in 1982, that she began drawing a series of deranged "dykes to watch out for," chiefly for her own amusement. Her first published cartoon appeared in 1983 in the New York City newspaper *WomaNews*. After contributing to *WomaNews* for two years, Bechdel self-syndicated her strip. "Dykes to Watch Out For" now runs in over 40 gay/lesbian, feminist, and progressive papers in the U.S., Canada, and the U.K., and on the web site at http://www.visi.com/~oprairie/. In 1988 Bechdel created another strip called "Servants to the Cause," about the staff of a queer newspaper. The strip ran in *The Advocate* for less than two years and was collected in *Gay Comics* #19. Firebrand Books has published eight collections of Bechdel's "Dykes to Watch Out For" cartoons, and several annual calendars have also been produced. Bechdel has won numerous Lambda Literary Awards! Her cartoons have also appeared in *Ms.*, *Washington Blade*, *Dyke Strippers*, *Real Girl*, *American Splendor*, *Wimmen's Comix*, and *The Village Voice*. You can e-mail her at BigD2wo4@aol.com.

Steve Beery
(Gay Comix #8, 11)
A successful writer for *Interview*, *Vanity Fair*, *The Advocate*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and England's *The Pink Paper*, Steve Beery succumbed to AIDS in the summer of 1993. A longtime comics fan, his boyhood comments can be seen in old DC letters columns (as can Jerry Mills') and Steve's massive comic-book collection was bequested to the University of Michigan. He was a close friend of the novelist Armistead Maupin and of Trina Robbins and Robert Triptow.

Anina Bennett
(Gay Comics #23, 25)
Anina Bennett is the co-creator of the *Heartbreakers* series with her husband Paul Guinan. The series has appeared in various issues of *Dark Horse Presents*, as well as a mini-series. Anina has edited books for Disney, First, and Dark Horse. A collection is planned from Image later this year, which will contain an all-new *Heartbreakers* saga.

Bruce Billings
(Gay Comix #10, 12 / Gay Comics #25)
Bruce Billings is retired and living in southern Oregon on an abandoned airstrip. His neighbors are mostly nocturnal animals, which he notes is not that different from living in San Francisco! He also adds that when the crickets chirp they really are crickets . . . not zippers! He's very pleased to participate in this landmark issue of *Gay Comics* and sends his best wishes to everyone involved from himself and Castro!

Blue
(Gay Comix #13 / Gay Comics #25)
Blue, also known as Bloobird, is writer and editor of *The LSD Tabloid*, an on-line publication. For more information, e-mail Bloobird@sirius.com. Blue wishes to dedicate his strip in our anniversary issue to his partner in love and life, the mysterious and wonderful Elroy, aka Dan Wardlow. Peace and love to all.

Angela Bocage
(Gay Comix #11, 13)
Angela Bocage is a nationally syndicated cartoonist, a graphics editor for the AIDS News Service, and is the

creator and editor of *Real Girl*, a comic anthology for all genders and all orientations. Bocage has two children and is active in the fight for reproductive freedom for all women. Her work has been seen in *Frighten the Horses, Wimmen's Comix, Weird Smut, Girljock* and in anthology books such as *Women's Glibber, Strip AIDS USA*, and *Choices. Real Girl* is available from Fantagraphics, 7563 Lake City Way, Seattle, WA 98115.

Theo Bogart (Theo Van Den Boogaard)
(Gay Comix #1, 3, 5)
Living in Holland, Theo Bogart has had work published in *U-Comix Sonderband* and a 1980 issue of *The Advocate*. His current whereabouts and other credits are unknown.

Paige Braddock
(Gay Comics #24, 25)
Paige Braddock polished her knack for whimsy during her youth in the rural south, where she says there isn't much to do but doodle. She currently works as the graphics editor for *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Her cartoon work has appeared in *Girlfriends, The Blade, L.A. Girl Guide, Hysteria, Curve, The Woman Rebel*, and *Dyke Strippers*. To contact her, write P O Box 1115, Atlanta, GA 30301, or via e-mail to janetoon@mindspring.com. And you can "See Jane" on the web at http://www.reuben.org/janesworld/

Jean Daniel Breque
(Gay Comix #8)
The whereabouts and credits of Jean Daniel Breque are unknown.

Kalynn Campbell
(Gay Comix #8)
Robert Triptow gratefully admits that Kalynn Campbell illustrated a cover for *Gay Comix* in a pinch, from Triptow's idea. The ostensibly hetero Campbell's credits include an ongoing role as cover artist for Paul Krassner's *Realist* magazine, with work appearing in *Mother Jones, The Utne Reader, The Nation*, and *The L.A. Times*. Then there are the Haight-Ashbury posters he did for *Vanity Fair*; illustrations for Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart's book *Planet Drum*; work for the Disney Channel, *Billboard Magazine*, the City of Los Angeles, Michael Jackson, David Bowie, Smashing Pumpkins, Adam Ant, Black Crows, Blues Travellers, and Billy Idol, album covers for Tom Petty and Emerson, Lake & Palmer, and more than can be mentioned here. Campbell lives, works, and exhibits in Los Angeles. Most recently, he illustrated the entire Epitaph Records web site (www.epitaph.com), and you can see his website at http://users.aol.com/driveway66/KCampbell.html

Rick Campbell
(Gay Comix #4, 5 / Gay Comics #25)
In recent years, Rick Campbell has been writing and drawing comics for his own enjoyment and sharing them with friends. He hangs out on the internet on the #gaygifs channel on DALnet using the nick RickTX.

Jennifer Camper
(Gay Comix #2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11–14 / Gay Comics #15, 17, 20, 24, 25)
Jennifer Camper's work has appeared in newspapers, comic books, magazines, anthologies – and on postcards, refrigerator doors, and bathroom walls. Her cartoons are collected in *Rude Girls and Dangerous Women*, published by Laugh Lines Press (rozwarren@aol.com). She is currently working on her comic strip, "subGURLZ," which you can see on the web at http://www.visi.com/~oprairie/

M. Campos
(Gay Comix #12 / Gay Comics #25)
Mark Campos was first published in *Gay Comix*. His other work has appeared in *Places That Are Gone* (Aeon 1994), *Hyena, The Stranger, Negative Burn*, and other anthologies. He is married to Jeri. His quote is "Dewars' White Label!"

Cherry
(Gay Comix #11)
The whereabouts and credits of Nancy "Cherry" Wilson are unknown. We still have a royalty check for her contribution to issue #11. Pick it up, Cherry, so you can afford that dream vacation to Rio!

Burton Clarke
(Gay Comix #2, 3, 10 / Gay Comics #25)
Burton Clarke, a former New Yorker who now makes San Francisco his home, loves the art of comics even more now than he did as a kid, when he would wait breathlessly for the next issue of *Lois Lane* to hit the newsstand. A two-years-running winner in the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* cartoon contest ('93 and '94), his work has also appeared in cartoon exhibitions in California and New York. And, yes, his story in this issue, "Someday My Prints Will Come" is happily autobiographical.

Richard Cornwell
(Gay Comix #6)
Richard Cornwell was born and raised in central California. He moved to the Bay Area in the 1970s. In 1981 he collaborated with cartoonist Michael Goldberg on the script for "Clonederella." The following year he contributed to the writing of another Goldberg satirical fairy tale strip entitled "The Elves and the Leathermaker."

Malachy Coney
(Gay Comics #20, 25)
The Irish Malachy Coney is co-creator (with Sean Doran) of "Major Power & Spunky," which has appeared in Ireland's *DV8* and *Zipper*, as well as in a special collection from Eros Comix (Fantagraphics, 7563 Lake City Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115, or call 800-657-1100). Coney also wrote the gay-themed *Dandy Lion* for Eros and three fantastic issues of *Holy Cross* for Fantagraphics. He is currently the writer of *The Darkness* and *Tales of the Darkness* from Widstorm/Image. And yes, the editor misspelled his name "Covey" all through issue #20 of *Gay Comics*, due to his inability to distinguish a "V" from an "N."

A HISTORY OF CONTRIBUTORS

Howard Cruse
(Gay Comix #1–6, 10, 11, 14 / Gay Comics #25)
Howard Cruse, perhaps the most important cartoonist in gay history, edited the first four issues of *Gay Comix* and established its style. His 1970s underground series, *Barefootz*, partially collected in his book *Early Barefootz* was the launching pad for his first gay stories. His comic strip "Wendel" ran in *The Advocate* and has been anthologized in the books *Wendel* and *Wendel on the Rebound*, while much of his other work was collected in *Dancin' Nekkid with the Angels*. His Piranha Press/DC Comics epic, *Stuck Rubber Baby*, is one of the finest examples of serious gay cartooning in the medium and has won much recognition, including American, British, and German awards for best graphic novel. Some of Howard's original artwork is available for sale by writing to P.O. Box 728223, Jackson Heights, NY 11372-8223, or by emailing Howard at HCruse1816@aol.com. Howard lives in New York with his partner since 1979, book editor and political activist Ed Sederbaum.

Mike Curtis
(Gay Comics #22, 25)
Mike Curtis is the creator and writer of the *Shanda the Panda* series and has done other work in the "furry fandom" arena. After four issues at Antarctic Press, Mike took *Shanda* to Vision Comics, where it is up to its 23rd issue. In addition, he and his wife Carole (*Katmandu*) are self-publishing a line of anthropomorphic comics. You can contact them at Shanda Fantasy Arts, P.O. Box 2452, Conway, AR 72032. Visit their web page at http://web2.airmail.net/egaban/shanda.

Demian
(Gay Comix #1, 3, 5 / Gay Comics #25)
Demian produces, directs, shoots and acts in theater, film and video projects. His latest video production, *The Right to Marry*, supports legal marriage for same-sex couples. Demian also is a still photographer, digital artist and Web site programmer. He has a doctorate in education and is co-director of Sweet Corn Productions and Partners Task Force for Gay & Lesbian Couples. Contact: 206-935-1206; demian@buddybuddy.com; www.buddybuddy.com, Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109.

Rhonda Dicksion
(Gay Comics #15–17, 25)
Rhonda Dicksion has had her cartoons collected in *The Lesbian Survival Manual* and *Stay Tooned*, both published by and available from Naiad Press, P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302 (or call 800-533-1973). The Los Angeles–born cartoonist has also done many comics for other anthology collections from Naiad Press.

John Dennis
(Gay Comics #24, 25)
John Dennis is a handsome yet still-single guy who can barely cook — but boy, can he draw guys in tights and capes! John has penciled and/or inked for nearly every major comics publisher in North America. His work has been seen in *Savage Sword of Conan*, *The Realm*, *Caliber Presents*, *West Coast Avengers Annual*, *Wonder Woman Annual*, and in some of DC's TSR comics.

Diane DiMassa
(Gay Comics #22, 25)
Diane DiMassa is the creator of the comic-zine *Hothead Paisan: Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist*, which has been appearing quarterly for seven years from Giant Ass Publishing. Besides the first 20 issues, there are also two paperback anthologies which were published by Cleis Press. Recently DiMassa was given the opportunity to create an installation for the "Nowhere" exhibit of contemporary culture at the Museum of Modern Art in Denmark, which involved 5,000 issues of the *Hothead* zine, 15,000 related postcards, and a dumpster. *Hothead* is not quite quarterly at the moment, as DiMassa is concentrating more on having her work in book form. On the burner are a "Chicken" (Hothead's cat) book and a "Letters to Hothead" compilation with answers and illustrations. For a catalog or correspondence, write to Giant Ass Publishing, P.O. Box 214, New Haven, CT 06502. *Hothead Paisan* was also part of *Out of the Inkwell*, a four-segment play presented in 1994 by San Francisco's Theatre Rhinoceros, and DiMassa's work has been featured in *Strange Looking Exile*, *Frighten the Horses*, *The Advocate*, and *Oh.* . You can e-mail her at Firebutt@aol.com.

Catherine Doherty
(Gay Comics #23, 25)
Catherine Doherty's published work has appeared in Vancouver's *Room of One's Own* (vol. 18:3) and London's *Diva Magazine*, and she has had a frequent page in *Siren*, a bimonthly Toronto magazine for lesbian and bisexual women. She is currently completing her first book, *Can Of Worms* (Fantagraphics Books), an autobiographical dark comedy about growing up adopted. Catherine also works as a production designer for film, and has a new girl band called Guppyboy. Born and raised in Toronto, she now makes her home in Los Angeles.

Gerard Donelan
(Gay Comix #7, 10 / Gay Comics #25)
Donelan first appeared in *The Advocate* in the late '70s in response to Anita Bryant's attempt to destroy the popularity of orange juice. His "It's a Gay Life" page became a popular feature for 15 years as *The Advocate* rose to national prominence. Broadening his scope, Donelan moved into the "adult" field, published two collections, has been translated into languages as diverse as Dutch and Korean, and is now featured in the biweekly national newsmagazine *Frontiers*. Donelan still lives and works in San Francisco with his lover Christopher and their weird cat Spooky.

Sean Doran
(Gay Comics #20, 25)
Hailing from Ireland, Sean Doran is the co-creator (with Malachy Coney) of "Major Power & Spunky," which has appeared in Ireland's *DV8* and *Zipper*, as well as a one-shot collection from Eros Comix.

A HISTORY OF CONTRIBUTORS

Kurt Erichsen
(Gay Comix #1, 3, 4, 6–8, 11, 12 / Gay Comics #20, 22, 25)
Kurt Erichsen is the artist behind "Murphy's Manor," which has been syndicated to gay and lesbian newspapers since 1982. It is the gay and lesbian press's longest-running comic strip. Erichsen has also been one of the mainstays of the *Meatmen* anthology books, with collections of "Murphy's Manor" cartoons and original stories which include "The Nine Billion Names of Penis" and "Little Red Riding Crop." Kurt lives in Toledo with John Widemer, his partner of 15 years. He is not now, nor has he ever been, the pet of a pair of gay gerbils (see *Gay Comics* #22). He has also had work published in *Starlog*, *Science Fiction Review*, and *Comics Feature*, as well as a collection of his strips from Leyland Publications called *Under the Covers/ Between the Sheets*.

Leslie Ewing
(Gay Comix #6, 11, 12, 14 / Gay Comics #17, 25)
Leslie Ewing is an Oakland resident who's been cartooning since 1983. She's appeared in *Wimmen's Comix*, *Strip AIDS USA*, *Choices*, *Dyke Strippers*, *Off Our Backs*, and other anthologies. Her monthly cartoon, "Mid-Dyke Crisis," currently runs in the San Francisco women's paper *Icon*. Much of Leslie's commentary is drawn from her experiences in community work. She was the volunteer coordinator for the Washington, DC, display of the Names Project AIDS memorial quilt in 1988 and 1989 and was on the National Steering Committee for the 1993 March On Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. She currently serves as president of the board of directors of the AIDS Emergency Fund in San Francisco.

J.A. Fludd
(Gay Comics #16–18, 20, 23, 25)
J.A. Fludd is a New York artist. He's written for the *Fantaco Chronicles*, and he belongs to the Gaylactic Network, the international organization of gay and lesbian science fiction fans. He contributed artwork to the *Super Deck!* trading card game, and has exhibited and sold art at SF and comic conventions around the country. He is presently working on an elaborate graphic novel set in his own super-hero universe, in which characters of different races as well as sexualities inhabit the same, science-fiction-oriented storylines. He has also recently been working behind the scenes on television's *Star Trek* franchise.

Julie Frankl
(Gay Comics #17, 18, 20, 25)
Julie Frankl is a native Texan currently living in Kansas City. When she's not drawing her own comics, she enjoys reading other people's, especially "Dykes to Watch Out For," *Desert Peach*, *Love & Rockets*, and *Naughty Bits*. Her favorite movie is *Harold and Maude*.

Leanne Franson
(Gay Comics #18, 22, 24, 25)
Leanne Franson is a bilingual, bi dyke living in Montreal with her cat and dog. She's currently looking for a sperm donor and an experienced (butch?) top. Anyone offering, or who would like a copy of her comic zine *Liliane* (issues 1-32 $1.50 each) or the 88-page collection of her work, *Assume Nothing* ($12.00 postpaid), can contact her at P.O. Box 274, Succ. Place du Parc, Montreal, PQ, Canada H2W 2N8. Her work has also appeared in England's *Dyke's Delight*, as well as *Naughty Bits*, *Girljock*, *Brat Attack*, and *Strange Looking Exile*.

Vaughn Frick
(Gay Comix #3–5, 7, 8, 13, 14 / Gay Comics #15, 22, 25)
Political and satirical, Vaughn Frick has been a longtime environmental activist and Radical Faerie. A collection of his strips, entitled *Watch Out! Comix*, is available from Last Gasp. He has also appeared in *Meatmen*, *Strip AIDS USA*, *Annie Sprinkle Is Miss Timed*, *RFD*, and *PDXS*. He resides in Portland, Oregon, and produces the environmental strip called "Cascadia" for *The Portland Alliance* and *Earth First Journal*.

Billy Fugate
(Gay Comix #1, 3)
When last heard of, Fugate had illustrated some stories for comic versions of Disney's *Little Mermaid*. He has lived in Kentucky and Florida, has worked in animation, educational comic books, and T-shirt design. His current whereabouts and other credits are unknown.

Michael J. Goldberg
(Gay Comix #5–8, 10–14 / Gay Comics #22, 25)
Moving to San Francisco from the East Coast in 1979, Michael Goldberg joined the ranks of San Francisco gay cartoonists when his first strip, "Clonederella," was serialized in the *Bay Area Reporter* in 1981. Becoming good friends with new *Gay Comix* editor Robert Triptow, Goldberg contributed his popular gay "funny animal" character, "Swishy Fishy." Goldberg's other comic work has appeared in *Choices* and *Strip AIDS USA*, as well as several volumes of *Meatmen*. In 1991 he moved to Portland, Oregon. An avid collector of 20th century "stuff," Goldberg applied his writing and editing skills to books about collectibles. His publications include *Collectible Plastic Kitchenware and Dinnerware 1935-1965*, as well as *Groovy Kitchen Designs for Collectors* and a book on collecting men's neckties, *The Ties That Blind*. He contributed text for *Alberto Vargas. The Esquire Years* and a book on vintage calendar illustration for Collectors Press in Tigard, Oregon. Goldberg is a regular contributor of articles on antiques and collectibles for *Antique Trader Weekly*, *Collector Magazine* and *Today's Collector*.

Diana Green
(Gay Comics #18, 25)
Diana Green is 44 years old, bisexual, and a post-operative transsexual. Since her last *Gay Comics* appearance, she has been staff cartoonist for the sadly demised *Transisters* magazine, she now cartoons for the *Transsexual News Telegraph*. Her strip "Tranny Towers" ran in Minneapolis' *Lavender Magazine* from January 1995 through May 1996. In Fall '98 she will enter her senior year as a comic book illustration major at Minneapolis College of Art & Design. She's recently finished a design and

illustration assignment for the Minnesota AIDS project. Everyone's sick of her bragging about her brief apprenticeship with Reed Waller, so she won't do so here. Email her at dgreen2@earthlink.net

Roberta Gregory
(Gay Comix #1–7, 10–14 / Gay Comics #15–17, 20, 21, 23, 25)
Roberta Gregory has drawn comics ever since she could hold a crayon, but didn't publish until her college days in the early 1970s. Finding the first issue of *Wimmen's Comix* inspirational (if a bit lopsided in favor of heterosexuality), she submitted "A Modern Romance," which appeared in issue #4 in 1974. Meanwhile, her strip "Feminist Funnies" was running in a college publication, and in 1976 she expanded the cast to fill a complete comix book, *Dynamite Damsels*, which she self-published. This established her as the first female solo publisher in underground comix, and the book was the second openly lesbian comic! In the 1970s and '80s, she created stories for *Wimmen's Comix* and *Tits & Clits* and self-published two book projects, *Sheila and the Unicorn* and *Winging It*. She also appeared in benefit books such as *Choices* and *Strip AIDS USA*. In the '90s her career kicked into high gear. The first issue of *Naughty Bits* appeared in early 1991 as a one-shot and has since gone on to achieve a modest amount of success (in alternative comics terms), with over 20 issues published, four book collections, and numerous awards and award nominations! Other ongoing projects have been *Artistic Licentiousness* and a weekly "Bitchy Bitch" strip, besides contributions to *Real Stuff*, *Aesop's Fables*, England's *Dyke's Delight*, *Duplex Planet*, *Real Girl*, *ZU*, *Graphic Story Monthly*, and *Gauntlet*. Roberta holds the distinction of appearing in more issues of this series than any other cartoonist. For more information and a free catalog of her work, send a SASE to her at P.O. Box 27438, Seattle, WA 98125. E-mail her at rgregory@scn.org and see her "Bitchy Bitch" strip at her web site at http://www.robertagregory.com or at http://www.visi.com/~oprairie/

Groc
(Gay Comix #13)
British cartoonist Groc has been seen in *Buddies* and other places, including in his own zine, *Ginger*.

Daerick Gross, Sr.
(Gay Comix #14 / Gay Comics #24, 25)
Daerick Gross, Sr., is the award-winning artist who painted *The Vampire Lestat* (still in print as a trade paperback). His other work includes *Forbidden Planet*, *Queen of the Damned*, *Batman: Two-Face*, various Marvel projects, and *Bloodwulf* for Image. In the late '70s he was the cartoonist of "Kelly Kodick" for *Playgirl*. He has recently drawn *Spider-Man Online* and *Excalibur* for Marvel, as well as some more erotic work for Carnal Comics.

Paul Guinan
(Gay Comics #23, 25)
Paul Guinan created the *Heartbreakers* series with his wife, Anina Bennett. Paul has illustrated books ranging from *Aliens* and *Terminator* to *Urban Legends* and *The Big Book of Conspiracies* and is currently the penciler of *Chronos* for DC. The *Heartbreakers* series has been published by Dark Horse, and an all-new collection is planned this summer, from Image.

Craig Hamilton
(Gay Comics #18, 25)
Craig Hamilton was the artist for DC's spectacular *Aquaman* mini-series (1986) and *The Sea Woman Portfolio* (1992). He's recently done some work on DC's *Starman* (#28, and the upcoming #45), as well as pin-ups, posters, and short stories for DC and Marvel. He lives with his partner of ten years, Jody Haynes, in Georgia.

Tony Harris
(Gay Comics #18)
Tony Harris exploded onto the comic world in the first two issues of Innovation's *Nightmares on Elm Street* (written by Andy Mangels). He's since done work for *Nightbreed*, *Green Lantern Quarterly*, and *Punisher*, but he's most famous for his award-winning work on DC's *Starman* series. He resides in Georgia.

Andy Hartzell
(Gay Comics #23, 25)
Andy Hartzell is proud of his status as the token gay cartoonist from the southwest. He has self-published several books, including a collection of "Walter Ego" strips, and has been a frequent contributor to *Duplex Planet* and *Don't Shoot, It's Only Comix*. Keep an eye out for his newest title, the Xeric Award–winning *Bread & Circuses*, which you can order for $4 postpaid from Moe Press, 3814 E. Cherokee, Las Vegas, NV 89121.

Joan Hilty
(Gay Comix #13, 14 / Gay Comics #18, 20, 22, 24, 25)
Joan Hilty's super-powered and mere-mortal dyke dramas have appeared in *The Village Voice*, *The ADVOCATE*, *Girljock*, *Real Girl*, and *Oh. . .*, as well as the anthologies *Sportsdykes*, *Girlfriend Number One* and *Dyke Strippers*. Originally from Northern California, she now works as an editor for the VERTIGO imprint of DC Comics in New York City. Her solo book, featuring Immola and the Luna Legion and published as *Oh. . .* #8, can be ordered for $4.45 from B Publications, P.O. Box 41030, Cordova Bay Road, Victoria, BC V8Y 2K0, Canada. After July 1998, it can be ordered directly from her; for details, E-mail her at kaibito@mindspring.com.

Rand Holmes
(Gay Comix #1)
Canadian artist Rand Holmes is most famous for his underground series *Harold Hedd*. That character was also featured in an early gay scene in *All Canadian Beaver Comix* of 1973, pre–*Gay Comix*. He lives on an island off the coast of Canada with his female significant other.

Jeff Jacklin
(Gay Comix #8 / Gay Comics #25)
Jeff Jacklin's first appearance in *Gay Comix* was in issue

#8, featuring a character he created for a Minneapolis lesbian and gay newspaper. He also contributed work to *Strip AIDS USA*. The characters in his story "Midway" in this issue are the subject of a graphic novel he has been working on for a couple of years. In the time between issues #8 and 25, he has illustrated children's craft books and puzzles and worked as an animation assistant on such projects as Fox's *Spider-Man* and an animated *Peter Rabbit* CD-ROM. As a freelance illustrator in Minneapolis, he produced storyboards and animatic illustrations for the Department of Defense, among other clients. Jeff recently self-published *Tales from the Queer Side*, a gay-themed science-fiction and fantasy zine. When not at the drawing board, he enjoys hobbies such as weight-lifting and model aviation. He currently lives in Arizona. You can contact him at jeffdraw@hotmail.com.

Peter Keane
(Gay Comix #10, 13 / Gay Comics #25)
According to Robert Triptow, the cutest art director the *Bay Area Reporter* ever had was Peter Keane, a collage artist and painter. Peter drew Triptow's concept of the sad-eyed leatherman in the Walter/Margaret Keane style for the cover of *Gay Comix* #10, and he thought up the "Acquired Pronoun Deficiency Syndrome" strip that was illustrated by Michael Goldberg for issue #13. By then Peter had died of AIDS (in February 1989), and his cat, Stubby, was adopted by Triptow.

David Kelly
(Gay Comics #23, 25)
David Kelly writes and draws *Steven's Comics*, a self-syndicated comic strip about life as seen through the eyes of a gay pre-teen. His latest collection, *Steven's Comics. New Best Friend*, is the follow-up to the Xeric award-winner *Steven's Comics. We Are Family*. David co-edits *Boy Trouble*, a queer boy comic anthology, with fellow cartoonist Robert "Curbside" Kirby. For more information and a free catalog, please send an SASE to David at 1122 E. Pike St., Suite 992, Seattle, WA 98122. You can email him at DKPress@aol.com, or visit his website at http://www.visi.com/~oprairie/.

Sam Kieth
(Gay Comics #24)
Sam Kieth is the creator of *The Maxx*, the best-selling comic book from Image Comics. *The Maxx* was an animated series on MTV and is available on video, with a Paramount movie in the works. Sam has worked on other popular series, illustrating the original issues of *Sandman* as well as stories for *The Incredible Hulk* and *Wolverine*, among others. *The Maxx* story in *Gay Comics* #24 was the first one not published by Image!

Robert Kirby
(Gay Comics #17, 20, 25)
Robert Kirby lives in Manhattan. His self-syndicated comic strip "Curbside" can be read in gay and alternative papers across North America, and on the internet at http://www.visi.com/~oprairie/. His comics have also appeared in a wide variety of books and magazines, such as *The Factsheet Five Zine Reader* (Crown), *The Question of Equality* (Scribner), *The Advocate*, and dozens of queer zines. He co-edits *Boy Trouble*, a queer-boy comic anthology, with David Kelly ($3.00 to DK Press, 1122 E. Pike St. 992, Seattle, WA 98122), and this summer will finally release the first "Curbside" collection, thanks to a grant from the Xeric Foundation. You can e-mail him at curside1@juno.com for details, or write to PO Box 2368, Times Square Station, NY, NY 10036.

Ralf König
(Gay Comics #15, 16)
Ralf König is a well-known German cartoonist who studied at Düsseldorf's National Academy of Fine Arts. In Germany he has published over 20 graphic novels and cartoon collections. Though his other work has been translated in European countries from France to Denmark, in 14 languages, only three translated works of his are available in the U.S.. *The Killer Condom* from Catalan Communications, *Bulls Balls* from BK Press (3010 Cedar St., Box G, Austin, TX 78705 for $18.95), and the recent *Maybe... Maybe Not* from Ignite! Entertainment ($14.95 postpaid, Ignite Entertainment!, P.O. Box 2273, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163). Two films have been produced from his work: *Maybe.. Maybe Not* from Live Entertainment Video with subtitles, while *The Killer Condom* has been released in a subtitled form from Troma Pictures.

David Kottler
(Gay Comix #3)
The whereabouts and credits of David Kottler are unknown.

Kris Kovick
(Gay Comics #17, 22)
Kris Kovick is a San Francisco writer and cartoonist whose book, *What I Love About Lesbian Politics Is Arguing With People I Agree With* (Alyson Press), has a really long title. She's now producing the zine *Burning Bush* and illustrating the *Bible* in all its sexy and gory reality! She's had 'toons in *Real Girl*, *Girljock*, *Deneuve*, *Frighten the Horses*, and many lesbian/feminist books.

Jeffrey A. Krell
(Gay Comix #6–8, 10–12 / Gay Comics #25)
Jeffrey A. Krell created "Jayson" on Christmas Day 1982 — the last holiday he will ever spend with his parents. "Jayson" debuted the following year in the *Philadelphia Gay News*, then went national in 1985 with the first of many stories for *Gay Comix*. Two years later "Jayson" appeared in the inaugural volume of *Meatmen*, and has since appeared in many issues of that anthology series. For the past few years, Jeff has been collaborating with Ron Romanovsky and Paul Phillips on a *Jayson* musical, which will open this summer in New York City. A complete 176-page collection of *Jayson* comics is available for $16.95 postpaid from Ignite Entertainment!, P.O. Box 2273, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. You can e-mail Jeff at jeffkrell@aol.com or visit his web site at http://ignite-ent.com.

A HISTORY OF CONTRIBUTORS

Julia Lacquement
(Gay Comics #18, 25)
Julia Lacquement is one of the comic industry's best color artists. Her work includes *Green Arrow, Rick O'Shay, Wonder Woman, Elementals, Modesty Blaise*, and *Captain Sternn*. More recently she has worked for Milestone, especially on the mini-series *Heroes*, which featured two openly lesbian characters. Though known in comics as a colorist she is also gaining recognition as a science-fiction and fantasy illustrator, with regular appearances in *Marion Zimmer Bradley's Fantasy Magazine*, and collections of her illustrations appearing in a series of CD-ROMs by CD Titles. She lives in Arizona, and can be reached by email at Tiggerz1@ aol com

Michele Lloyd
(Gay Comix #5)
The whereabouts and credits of Michele Lloyd are unknown

Stephen Lowther
(Gay Comix #11, 12, 14 / Gay Comics #17, 20, 22, 25)
Stephen Lowther is a medical archivist in Old London Town who has declined offers to draw comics full-time because he wants "drawing to stay fun." His work has appeared in many publications over the last twelve years, including *Buddies, Heartbreak Hotel, Avalon, Trident, Him*, and many volumes of *Meatmen*, as well as the recent anthology *Ersatz Peach*. Much of his work has been in collaboration with Howard Stangroom. Lowther alternates comic art with cataloguing 19th century medical theses and pamphlets, which he claims is "much more interesting than you'd think."

Marc Lynx
(Gay Comics #24, 25)
Marc Lynx is a two-stepper and software tester from the San Francisco Bay area. Under the name Jim Drew, he has been drawing editorial cartoons for the gay and lesbian newspaper *OutNOW!* since early 1993. He also published a number of issues of the queer comic review zine *Ciao!*

Jon Macy
(Gay Comics #23, 25)
Jon Macy is best known for his underground comic book series *Tropo*. He is now a full-time pornographer doing hard-core gay sex comics for such illustrious magazines as *Meatmen, Wilde*, and *Bunkhouse*. He is the set designer for the Nesting Dolls dance company, and, in true renaissance style, he is the personal pornographer to a secret diaper fetishist. Eight issues of his "gender bending" comic book series *Nefarismo* were published by the thoroughly debauched Eros Comix (Fantagraphics, 7563 Lake City Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115 or call 800-657-1100)

Beck Main
(Gay Comics #23, 25)
Beck Main is an Australian cartoonist who has self-enduring obsessions with sheep, sputnik, Barbie (the doll, not cooking of meat), ants, and aliens, all of which have appeared somewhere in her cartoon and comic work. That work has been seen in *Lesbians on the Loose, The Sydney Star Observer, Westside Observer, QueerZine, Scratch*, and *Dyke Strippers* (from Cleis Press). She used to co-edit and publish *Drawing Away*, an Australian anthology of women's comics, and she has also worked in commercial animation. You can contact her by writing P.O. Box 541, Kings Cross, NSW 2011, Australia, or you can e-mail her at beckmain@one net.au

Andy Mangels
(Gay Comix #14, Special #1 / Gay Comics #15–25)
Andy Mangels edits *Gay Comics* and has written for many comic publishers, including such diverse series as *ElfQuest, Blood of Ten Chiefs, Friday the 13th, Child's Play, Nightmares on Elm Street, Justice League Quarterly, Annie Sprinkle Is Miss Timed, Bloodwulf, Troll, Badrock & Company, UltraVerse Premiere*, and the best-selling *Boba Fett: Twin Engines of Destruction*. His *Quantum Leap* #9 (Innovation), set during the week of the Stonewall riots, created a national stir. He tries to include gay and lesbian characters in every comic he writes. He has written two books: *Star Wars: The Essential Guide to Characters* (Del Rey) and *Beyond Mulder and Scully: The Mysterious Characters of The X-Files* (Citadel Press). He has more recently written the on-line interactive comic series *RE-Man* for Microsoft and has co-written (with Mike Martin) *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* and other *Star Trek* projects for Marvel, introducing lesbian characters into the *DS9* series. He writes a weekly Hollywood gossip column at http //Mania.com called "Hollywood Heroes," and is now working on his third book, tentatively titled *From Scream to Dawson's Creek: The World of Kevin Williamson* (Renaissance Books, Fall 98). Finally, Mangels is publisher and editor of an erotic magazine called *IN UNIFORM: The Magazine*. Visit the web site at http // www.teleport com/~uniform. You can e-mail him at AMangelsSW@aol.com

Patrick Marcel
(Gay Comix #3, 4, 6–8, 12, 13)
A French artist, Patrick Marcel also translates English science fiction into French and has been publishing *Manticora*, a horror &fantasy fanzine. He has been preparing for years a huge fantasy/funny animal/gay saga and hopes that, when it gets underway, it will have been worth it. You can e-mail him at manticor@cyberstation.fr.

J.D. March, aka Ajax
(Gay Comix #14 / Gay Comics #18, 22, 24, 25)
J.D. March is a bi dyke sharing rent in California, with another witch and a bevy of female beasts. She has been a cartoonist since 1983 and has been published in *Lesbian Contradiction* and a variety of smaller zines. She is a survivor of the military lifestyle, an urban witch, and considered by some to be playing with the major arcana missing. Her favorite quote is: "A warped mind is a terrible thing to waste."

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Lee Marrs
(Gay Comix #1–4 / Gay Comics #25)
Lee Marrs' career has spanned the range of modern media, but around 1972 her concentration narrowed to two fields she continues to pursue: comic books and animation. One of the founding mommies of the *Wimmen's Comix* collective, the majority of her work has appeared in the underground and alternative press, with such series as *Unicorn Isle*, *Pudge Girl Blimp*, *The Compleat Fart*, and *Wimmen's Comix*. She received comicdom's Inkpot Award in 1982. Her mainstream work includes humor and horror stories for *Plop!*, *Crazy Magazine*, *Epic Illustrated*, and *Heavy Metal*. More recent work includes scripts for a DC graphic novel, *Viking Glory*, as well as *Wonder Woman*, *Legends of the Dark Knight*, and *Zatanna*. For Dark Horse she wrote two *Indiana Jones* mini-series, and last year she wrote the Vertigo mini-series *Fault Lines*. Today she still scripts comics, as well as working for software game companies and her own audio-visual and animation company, Lee Marrs Artwork. To top it off, she won an Emmy Award for her work as a TV art director!

Sean Martin
(Gay Comics #16, 18, 25)
Sean Martin is a Canadian cartoonist and playwright whose "Doc & Raider" has been appearing in gay magazines for many years. A line of T-shirts is available, as well as two book collections, *Caught on Tape* and *Amazingly LIFE-Like* (Queer Press of Toronto). The series is housed in the National Archives of Canada, a first for a gay comic strip! You can e-mail him at PutEmUp40@aol.com.

P. Mastin
(Gay Comix #7)
The whereabouts and credits of British cartoonist Pete Mastin are unknown.

Melissa Bay Mathis
(Gay Comix #2)
The whereabouts and credits of Melissa Bay Mathis are unknown.

Steve Matuszak
(Gay Comics #18, 24, 25)
Steve Matuszak has had work in *Caliber Presents*, *Dadaville* (Caliber), and *Boy Trouble*. He's worked six years in Minneapolis' stand-up comedy circuit. In 1997 he won comicdom's prestigious Xeric grant and used the fund to self-publish *Most Likely to Succeed*. You can order copies of that ($4.00 postpaid) or his own zine, Killjoy, from Killjoy Press, P.O. Box 581036, Minneapolis, MN 55458-1036.

Brandon McKinney
(Gay Comics #24, 25)
Brandon McKinney is an illustrator living in Oakland. He illustrated the *Star Wars Trilogy* "Big Little Book" style books (Chronicle) and has been the artist on such diverse comics as *Godzilla*, *ElfQuest*, and *Child's Play*. He also works in animation, with his character "Chainsaw Bob" appearing in several animation festivals and a Converse/Foot Locker commercial. His work will be seen in the upcoming book, *Star Wars: The Essential Guide to Planets* (Del Rey), and in an upcoming *Indiana Jones* "Big Little Book" style book.

Jerry Mills
(Gay Comix #4–6, 9 / Gay Comics #25)
Jerry Mills was the creator of "Poppers," a brilliant strip which began in April 1982 in *In Touch* magazine. Jerry worked there in the subscriptions department when then-editor John Calendo encouraged him to do a regular sex comic to sandwich between the buns and the beefcake. In the mid-1980s "Poppers" was translated and published in the French gay weekly magazine *Gai Pied Hebdo* and in the Japanese monthly magazine *Barazoko*. Jerry also wrote an eight-page history of gays in comics for the first *Meatmen* book, published by Leyland Publications in 1986. Jerry later got a job in the classifieds department at *Advocate Men*, which then sporadically printed "Poppers" until editorial indecision and growing health complications forced Jerry to lay down his pen in his prime. Mills died January 28, 1993, of complications from a long battle with HIV. He is survived by his life partner, Sal Lucarello.

Andrea Natalie
(Gay Comix #13, 14 / Gay Comics #15, 16, 18, 25)
Andrea Natalie came out as a dyke in New York in 1980 and began syndicating her single-panel cartoon series, "Stonewall Riots," in 1989. Her strip has been seen nationally in the lesbian and gay press, and three collections are in print: *Stonewall Riots*, *The Night Audrey's Vibrator Spoke*, and *Rubyfruit Mountain*. The former is available from Venus Envy, 7100 Boulevard East, Guttenburg, NJ 07093, and the latter two are available from Cleis Press, P.O. Box 8933, Pittsburgh, PA 15221. Natalie's work has also appeared in England's *Dyke's Delight*.

Matthew Nelson
(Gay Comics #16)
Matthew Nelson's work also appeared in a few issues of *Bear* magazine. His whereabouts and other credits are unknown.

Brad Parker
(Gay Comix #12 / Gay Comics #25)
California artist Brad Parker has been all over the map in comics. His early work was sexually explicit cartoons for gay magazines such as *In Touch*, *Skin*, *Stroke*, *Friction*, *Advocate Men*, *Male Review*, and others. Many of his strips were collected in the trade paperback *Oh, Boy!* (Leyland Publications). Parker dabbled in mainstream comics for a while with such kung-fu titles as *Tales of the Kung-Fu Warriors* and *Tales of the Rei-Ki Warriors*, then went into commercial artwork, designing video games and computer programs. More recently he has reappeared in comics, computer-painting for Marvel Comics in the mini-series *Code of Honor*. He is also staff artist for the action figure magazine, *Go Figure*.

Stephanie Pennington
(Gay Comics #23–25)
Stephanie Pennington is a Californian who, until recently was living in Augsburg, Germany. As a child, she could

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never decide who she more desperately wanted to be Mr Steed or Ms. Peel. Sometimes a thespian (with a th), she enjoys drawing comics. Her work has also been seen in many issues of *Oh...*

George Pérez
(Gay Comics #20)
George Pérez is one of the most respected artists in the comics business, having worked on virtually every mainstream super-hero comic over his long career: *The Avengers, Fantastic Four, Justice League, New Teen Titans, Crisis on Infinite Earths*, and more. He wrote and/or drew *Wonder Woman* from 1987-92, introducing the first openly lesbian and gay characters in the book's 50-year history. He's now back at Marvel, working on *The Avengers* again and is continuing work on his creator-owned project, *Crimson Plague*.

Milo Poulsen
(Gay Comix #5 / Gay Comics #25)
Milo Poulsen was born in 1929 in Copenhagen and is a retired major from the Danish army, where he once did illustrations enticing young college boys to choose a career in the Army. He actively paints and draws and is especially fond of illustrating male nudes. He does not sell his art, with the exception of his one-page contribution to *Gay Comix*. He was widowed in 1976, is a father of three, and a grandfather of seven. In 1996 he entered into Denmark's "registered partnership" with his friend of 20 years, Torsten. He is currently a teacher in Danish for refugees given asylum in Denmark. You can email him at bkb3266@vip.cybercity.dk.

Jacki Randall
(Gay Comix #14 / Gay Comics #16, 18, 25)
Jacki Randall is adept in creative fields including art, music, and verse. She has received criticism alleging her perversity, as well as an official gubernatorial commendation and commissions from houses of worship! Her fetishes include skin art, 88 keys, powerful machines, Morse code, and chance. Her cartoons have shown up in *On Our Backs, Bad Attitude, Her, Outlook, Jewish Times, Baltimore Sun, Lesbian Connection, Lesbian Contradiction, Independent Biker, Outrageous Women, Tattoo Review, On Our Rag, Girljock, Calyx*, and many others. She was recently profiled in a *Tabu Tattoo* magazine for her tattoo work, which she now does from Sea Tramp Tattoo in Portland, Oregon.

Laura Rebecca
(Gay Comics #18)
Laura Rebecca cartoons in Los Angeles. Her other credits are unknown.

Jeff Richard
(Gay Comics #15, 16)
Jeff Richard is a Portland-based comic fan and collector of Ralf König's work. He discovered them during a two-year stint in Berlin, doing solar and "cultural" research. Jeff translated two of König's safe-sex pamphlets from German for *Gay Comics*. He now works at an environmental science firm in Portland and collects adult comics.

Trina Robbins
(Gay Comix #6, 11 / Gay Comics #25)
Trina Robbins is one of the best-known women in comics history, not only for her own cartoons but also for her work promoting other women in the industry. She wrote the books *A Century of Women Cartoonists* and *The Great Women Superheroes* for Kitchen Sink and co-wrote *Women and the Comics* with cat yronwode. Her next book, coming out in 1999 from Chronicle Books, is a history of girls' comics entitled *From Girls to Grrrlz*. Trina also edited and published *Choices*, a pro-choice benefit book, and co-edited *Strip AIDS USA*, a 1988 benefit anthology from Last Gasp featuring 121 comics creators donating strips and one-pagers. She is also credited as writing the first openly lesbian comic character, in the story "Sandy Comes Out" in *Wimmen's Comix* #1. She is also credited with the first all-woman comic book, *It Ain't Me, Babe*, in 1970. More recently her writing and art have graced the pages of *Meet Misty, California Girls, The Legend of Wonder Woman, Barbie, The Little Mermaid*, and many other series. She lives in San Francisco with her longtime partner, inker and illustrator Steve Leialoha.

P. Craig Russell
(Gay Comics #21, 25)
Phillip Craig Russell is one of the comic world's most respected and award-winning artists, and he remains the most high-profile, openly gay creator in the business. The Ohio-born creator began at Marvel while he was a junior in college. Today he is known for his gorgeous adaptations of classic operas, as well as his versions of books such as *Michael Moorcock's Elric* and *Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book*. Russell continues to work in mainstream comics, as well, bringing his own brand of classical artistic sensibilities to them. Recent work has included stories in various *Batman* titles for DC and *Star Wars* titles for Dark Horse. His strongest series to date has been *The Fairy Tales Of Oscar Wilde*, a hardcover set from NBM Publishing. For his work on those books, Russell won the Harvey Award for best graphic album and the Eisner Award for best artist. In 1993 he also received the Inkpot Award for career achievement. He came out to the industry in an interview with *The Comics Journal* (#147, Dec. 1991), where he referred to himself as "just another left-handed, night-dwelling, gay libertarian cartoonist."

David Sexton
(Gay Comics #21, 25)
David Sexton currently lives with his lover Doug in Miami Beach, where he owns Ironworks Gym. His other published work has appeared in *Taboo* from Kitchen Sink and *IN UNIFORM The Magazine*. He has a tarot deck coming out this fall from U.S. Game Systems. Sexton's professional comics career began when he met his idol, P. Craig Russell, at the Chicago Comic Con. The two collaborated on the story "Satan and the Savior" for *Taboo* and on his first published story in *Gay Comics*.

Eric Shanower
(Gay Comics #17)
Eric Shanower is the writer and artist of the *Oz* graphic novels published by First and Dark Horse, as well as many

series for DC, Marvel, Epic, and Dark Horse including *An Accidental Death*, *The Elsewhere Prince*, *Harlan Ellison's Dream Corridor*, and recent *Star Wars* titles He lives in New Jersey with his lover David and their rat Percy. Upcoming, he is planning a massive retelling of the Trojan War in a black-and-white comic series called *Age of Bronze*. It will be published by Autumn People Press, 15 Marcy Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003. That's also where you can write Hungry Tiger Press, the publisher's of Shanower's excellent *Oz Story Magazine*, a yearly must-have for any fans of the Land of Oz

Stan Shaw
(Gay Comix #14 / Gay Comics #25)
Stan works as an illustrator for various magazines and comic books He has done work for clients ranging from the Boy Scouts of America to Rhino Records to *The Village Voice*. His comic book work includes *Sunglasses After Dark* and *Verotika* (Verotik), *Billy Nguyen* (Attitude Zone and Caliber), *Real Stuff* (Fantagraphics), *Cool World* (DC Comics), *Creepy* and *Vampirella* (Harris), *Cheval Noir*, *Dark Horse Presents*, and *Beauty and the Beast*, (Dark Horse), *Elvira* (Claypool), and *Negative Burn* (Caliber). He spends what little time he has remodeling and researching the history and practice of illustration

Joe Sinardi
(Gay Comix #2, 4, 6 / Gay Comics #25)
Joe Sinardi is the creator of *Maxwell Mouse Follies*, a series which appeared in 1986 from Renegade Press. His early published work was in the heterosexual naughty magazine *Sex to Sexty*. His "Gideon" comic strip (making its publishing debut in this issue) was an attempt to deliver a gay-themed daily newspaper strip to the syndicates Joe currently lives in New Orleans and misses Florida

Skye
(Gay Comix #13)
The whereabouts and credits of Skye Smith are unknown

Cheela Smith
(Gay Comix #3 / Gay Comics #17, 20)
Cheela Smith has specialized in females since her birth in 1957. Her work has appeared in *Real Girl*, *Wimmen's Comix*, and *Girljock*. She is one of the world's leading authorities on Pig Latin and Veeblefetzers Her whereabouts are unknown

Terrie Smith
(Gay Comics #22, 25)
Terrie Smith is one of the artists behind the anthropomorphic *Shanda the Panda* series. Terrie is from California and has contributed to *Katmandu* and numerous small press publications.

Howard Stangroom
(Gay Comix #11, 12, 14 / Gay Comics #17, 20, 22, 25)
Howard Stangroom is currently happily single, but applications from wealthy and intelligent chubby-chasers are always invited He runs the 30th Century Comics store in London, England, and occasionally writes comics, most recently for Donna Barr's *Ersatz Peach* collection. He was the editor of our British counterpart, *Buddies*, and his other work has appeared in *Avalon*, *Boy Crazy Boy*, *Heartbreak Hotel*, *Him*, *Joy of Sex*, *Masters of the Universe*, *Meanwhile...*, *She-Ra*, *Sugar & Spice*, the kinky *My Little Pony*, and several volumes of *Meatmen* He often collaborates with Stephen Lowther. He can be e-mailed at Morgan247@bigfoot com

Noreen Stevens
(Gay Comix #13, 14 / Gay Comics #15, 25)
Noreen Stevens is a comic artist and activist artist living in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, with her girlfriend Jill and their hamster Hercules. Her strip "The Chosen Family" appears in the gay/lesbian press throughout North America As well, she is currently working on Mobile Homo, a public art project which merges her 20-year-old dream of owning a bitchin' van with the desire to bring gay/lesbian positive messages to the general public You can e-mail her at noreen@magic mb ca.

T.O. Sylvester
(Gay Comix #5, 6 / Gay Comics #25)
Artist Sylvia Mollick and writer Terry Ryan have been a cartooning team for 20 years. For the past 15 years they've published a weekly literary cartoon feature in the "Review" section of *The San Francisco Sunday Chronicle* Their single-panel cartoons have appeared in the pages of *Ms. Magazine*, *Mother Jones*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Saturday Review*, *Boy's Life*, *Defamation*, *Vegetarian Times*, *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, *San Francisco Magazine*, *The Advocate*, *Women's Glib* calendars, and a number of textbooks and anthologies In 1993 their cartoons were featured in a three-month exhibit at the Cartoon Art Museum in San Francisco. You may contact them at P O Box 31100, San Francisco, CA 94131.

Robert Triptow
(Gay Comix #2, 3, 5–13 / Gay Comics #25)
When Howard Cruse retired as editor, Denis Kitchen turned the editorship of *Gay Comix* over to San Franciscan Robert Triptow The talented cartoonist edited from issues #5 to 13, taking the series to new publisher Bob Ross with issue #6 Triptow also co-edited *Strip AIDS USA*, a 1988 trade paperback anthology from Last Gasp which featured 121 comics creators donating strips and one-pagers He wrote and edited the book *Gay Comics* (Plume, 1989), a history of non-pornographic queer cartoonists to that point. Robert loves going back to Salt Lake City and telling the Mormons from his childhood that his work has appeared in titles like *Bizarre Sex*, *Young Lust*, *Real Girl*, *Spastic Culture*, *Filth*, and *Holy Titclamps*. He is now finishing *Thrilling Realities*, an imaginative compendium of fictitious life stories based on a school photograph from 1937 Brooklyn. There's also a collection of all his past cartoons in the works E-mail him at rtriptow@skyhouse.org, and visit his web site at http // www skyhouse org/robert

Jackie Urbanovic/Bird
(Gay Comix #4 / Gay Comics #25)
Over the last 46 years, much has changed in Jackie Urbanovic's life, but some things she never outgrew: her

A HISTORY OF CONTRIBUTORS

love of drawing, her delight in comics and toys, and her crush on her high-school gym teacher. She makes her living as an illustrator and shares a Minneapolis home with two dogs, two cats, and the love of her life. More of her work can be found in *Wimmen's Comix* #14 and 17, *Women's Glibber, Choices, Images of Omaha* #1, and *The Best Contemporary Women Humorists*.

Richard Valley
(Gay Comix #5 / Gay Comics #25)
Richard Valley is the creator, publisher, and editor of *Scarlet Street: The Magazine of Mystery and Horror*, a bimonthly publication that frequently focuses on gay-themed subjects, as well as old and new horror/detective/sci-fi films and television series. He is the author of the farcical plays *A Piece of Cake, Play by Play, Down the Rabbit Hole*, and *Change Partners*, which have been performed in New York, Boston, and Minneapolis, among other cities. The inker of this issue's contribution is John E. Payne, *Scarlet Street*'s artistic director. For more information, contact Richard Valley at reditor@aol.com or write Scarlet Street Inc., PO Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.

Ivan Velez, Jr.
(Gay Comics #15, 16, 18, 24, 25)
In the comics mainstream for the last six years, Ivan Velez, Jr., is proudest of writing *Blood Syndicate* for Milestone Media. There he also worked on *Static* and *My Name Is Holocaust*. He wrote a *Venom* mini-series, *Abominations*, and *Ghost Rider* for Marvel, and an *Eradicator* mini-series for DC, as well as some short stories for both companies. He is best known for his work as writer and artist of *Tales of the Closet*, the excellent 10-issue series about gay youth, for which he did everything including licking the stamps... and which he swears will finally be finished soon (back issues of 1-9 are available for $1.50 each from HMI, 2 Astor Place, NY, NY 10003-6998). He's cartooned for *Details* and *NYQ* and sold a television script to *Cosmic Slop* on HBO. He's begun to write full-length scripts. Now if only his agent would call him back...

Reed Waller
(Gay Comics #22)
Reed Waller created the immensely popular, critically acclaimed, anthropomorphic, adults-only series *Omaha, The Cat Dancer* with his then-wife, Kate Worley. They publicly came out as bisexual in their letters column in 1988, making them the first openly bisexual creators in comics. They have had characters of all sexual orientations in their series, which moved from Kitchen Sink Press to Fantagraphics Books. That latter publisher has several volumes of *Omaha* in print. Reed's work has included stories in *Strip AIDS USA, Critters, Grateful Dead Comix*, and *Real Girl*. Reed is currently developing an interactive CD-ROM project.

Linda Sue Welch
(Gay Comics #18)
When last we knew, Linda Sue Welch resided in Nashville. Her panel "Out of the Darkness" has appeared in dozens of obscure yet progressive newspapers from coast to coast. Her first published work was in *Query*, Nashville's gay and lesbian weekly magazine. Her current whereabouts are unknown.

Mary Wings
(Gay Comix #1, 2 / Gay Comics #25)
In 1973 Mary Wings made history by releasing *Come Out Comix*, the first lesbian-oriented underground comic book. Wings created the comic in reaction to a lesbian story by Trina Robbins in *Wimmen's Comix* #1. Wings later released *Dyke Shorts* and *Are Your Highs Getting You Down?* Wings is now retired from comics and has written a number of lesbian detective novels, including *She Came to the Castro, She Came by the Book, She Came in a Flash*, and *Divine Victim*.

Kate Worley
(Gay Comics #22)
Best known for her writing on the successful, adults-only series, *Omaha, The Cat Dancer*, Kate Worley has recently worked on projects as diverse as the 1995 *Wonder Woman Annual*, the *Universal Horror Movie* trading card set, *John Jakes' Mullkon Empire* for Tekno Comics, *Roger Rabbit Adventures*, and the new *Jonny Quest* series for Dark Horse. Kate publicly came out as bisexual in the *Omaha* letters column in 1988, making her and her then-husband Reed Waller the first openly bisexual creators in comics. She now lives in Tulsa with her husband, writer James Vance, and their baby son. You can e-mail her at Kate.Worley@gratisnet.com.

Jim Yost
(Gay Comix #4)
The whereabouts and credits of Jim Yost are unknown.

Dave Young
(Gay Comix #14 / Gay Comics #15, 18, 25)
"Bernie" was created in 1980 by cartoonist David Shelton, using the pseudonym "Dave Young." The strip appeared in various gay publications across the U.S. until 1987. David enjoyed the celebrity of being one of a few cartoonists and feature writers represented by Stonewall Features Syndicate, the first all-gay syndicate. For almost ten years, "Bernie" has been absent from the gay press, but Shelton is intent on reviving the strip and dreams to someday see "Bernie" in mainstream papers. David cartoons in Oregon.

THANKS TO ALL THE CREATORS WHO HAVE BEEN A PART OF
GAY COMIX *and* GAY COMICS
OVER THE LAST 18 YEARS!

AND THANKS TO THE ORIGINAL PUBLISHER,
DENIS KITCHEN,
FOR HIS LEAP OF FAITH,
AND TO THE CURRENT PUBLISHER,
BOB ROSS,
FOR HIS PERSISTENCE !

TIMELINE

Here are a few important events in the history of gay and lesbian cartooning.

1957
Physique Pictorial (Tom of Finland premieres)

1964
Drum begins running A.Jay's *Harry Chess* strip

1972
Wimmen's Comix #1 (first lesbian comic story)

1973
Come Out Comix (Mary Wings)
All Canadian Beaver Comix (first gay comix story)

1976
Gay Heart Throbs #1 (lasts to #3)
Dynamite Damsels (Roberta Gregory)
Barefootz Funnies #2 (Howard Cruse)

1977
The Advocate begins publishing Donelan's cartoons

1978
Dyke Shorts (Mary Wings)

1980
GAY COMIX #1 (September)
The Hulk Magazine #23 (infamous YMCA rape scene)

1981
GAY COMIX #2 (November)

1982
GAY COMIX #3 (December)
In Touch begins running Jerry Mills' *Poppers*

1983
GAY COMIX #4 (November)
Alison Bechdel begins syndicating *Dykes To Watch Out For*

1984
GAY COMIX #5 (November)

1985
GAY COMIX #6 (Winter)

1986
GAY COMIX #7 (Spring)
GAY COMIX #8 (Summer)
GAY COMIX #9 (Winter)
Meatmen volume 1 (22 volumes to date)
Watch Out! Comix (Vaughn Frick)

1987
GAY COMIX #10 (Spring)
GAY COMIX #11 (Winter)
Strip AIDS (UK)
Tales of the Closet #1 (nine issues to date)

1988
GAY COMIX #12 (Spring)
AARGH! Artists Against Rampant Government Homophobia (UK)
Strip AIDS USA
"Out of the Closet and Into The Comics" major article on gay creators and creations published in *Amazing Heroes* #143-144
1st Gays In Comics panel at San Diego Comic Con

1989
Gay Comics trade paperback (Plume)

1991
GAY COMIX #13 (Fall)
GAY COMIX #14 (Winter)
GAY COMIX SPECIAL #1 (Winter)
Buddies #1 (UK, lasts to #4)

1992
GAY COMICS #15 (Spring)
GAY COMICS #16 (Spring)
GAY COMICS #17 (Fall)
Oh. . . #1 (lasts to #22)
Alpha Flight #106 (screaming Northstar issue)

1993
GAY COMICS #18 (Spring)
GAY COMICS #19 (Summer)
GAY COMICS #20 (Fall)
GAY COMICS #21 (Winter)
GAY COMICS wins Comic Creators Guild Best Anthology Award
Dyke's Delight #1 (UK, lasts to #2)
Quantum Leap #9 (Stonewall issue)

1994
GAY COMICS #22 (Summer)
Hands Off! (Washington pro-gay benefit book)
Out of the Inkwell premieres in SF (four gay comic-based one-act plays)

1995
Dyke Strippers: Lesbians Cartonists A to Z
Stuck Rubber Baby (Howard Cruse)

1996
GAY COMICS #23 (Spring)
GAY COMICS #24 (Summer)

1997
BAGAL Comic Connection (gay comic news zine)
10th Anniversary Gays In Comics panel at San Diego Comic Con

1998
GAY COMICS #25 (Spring)

BACK ISSUES STILL AVAILABLE

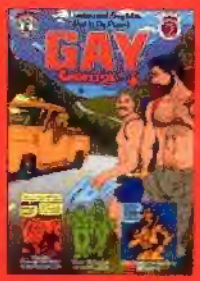
There are still copies of some of our previous issues available, though some are close to selling out.

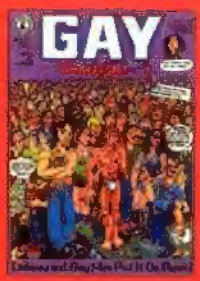
Gay Comix #6, #10, #11, #12, #13, #14
Gay Comix Special #1
Gay Comics #15, #16, #17, #18, #19
Gay Comics #20, #21, #22, #23, #24

$4.00 each postpaid
$4.50 (Can) $6.00 (Overseas)

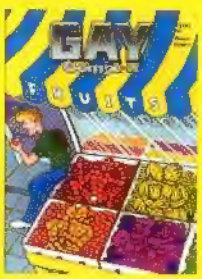
GAY COMICS, 395 Ninth St, SF, CA 94103

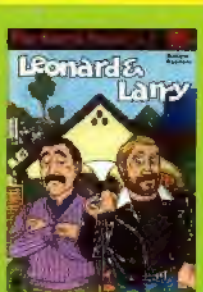
please include a signed statement that you are 18 years or older

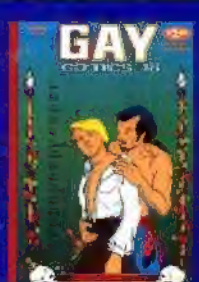


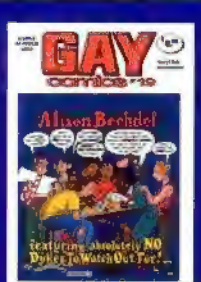


GAY comics









GAY comics

Sir Real's

UNDERGROUND COMIX CLASSIX

Gay Comics #25

Published Spring 1998
1st edition
Bob Ross
$6.95
84 pages
Printrun of ? copies
7" x 10"
ISBN:

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